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US territorial bill seeks 5-year transition extension, wage hike delay. PAGE 2

CUC fuel purchases in eight months total $38.9 million. PAGE 5

'NMI to get millions from settlement'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After leading the CNMI's negotiating team in Idaho, acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider told reporters yesterday that the CNMI will be getting millions of dollars from a settlement deal with the supplier of a reverse osmosis water purification system for the Commonwealth Health Center's new hemodialysis facility.

Hofschneider just came back from a trip to Idaho for settlement talks with Severn Trent Services which, back in

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IN MEMORIAM

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A boy sits among miniature American flags planted by the gravesites of those who served in the U.S. military at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi, as part of yesterday's 2013 Memorial Day ceremony. The day pays tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom.

See story and photos on PAGE 6

Schorr: A ringside seat to NMI's growth

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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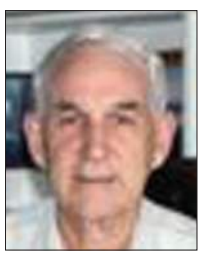
REPORTER

For over 25 years, Jeff Schorr saw the growth, the highs and lows of the CNMI's economy, its political relationship with the United States and its overall state.

Schorr, the first—and so far the only—U.S. Office of Insular Affairs field representative in the CNMI, officially retired from his post on Aug. 1, 2012.

Had it not been for a recent U.S. Department of the Interior statement that an OIA field representative will be hired—some nine months after it became vacant—almost nobody would have known that Schorr had left the post that gave him a front-row view of the CNMI's political and economic history.

» Schorr is OIA's first and so far only field representative in CNMI



Schorr

"I had a ringside seat to the growth and development of the newest member of the American political family for a quarter of century," he said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* about his stint with OIA and his now over 26-year stay in the CNMI.

While his official retirement started in August last year, Schorr was still helping OIA on transition matters until early this year.

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Hofschneider: I'm standing by Quichocho

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Fresh off from his Idaho trip on official business, acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider said yesterday that he is "standing by" his Superior Court associate judge nominee Ramon "Ray" Quichocho, amid a mix of support, opposition, allegations of fraud and racketeering, and low evaluation results from his attorney-peers.

Hofschneider is acting governor once again while Gov. Eloy S. Inos travels to Alaska on official business. Hofschneider said that Inos will be off island up to next week.

The first time Hofschneider was acting governor, he nominated Quichocho.

Hofschneider said he and Inos have not been able to formally discuss Quichocho's nomination prior to Inos' trip.

"I'm standing by the nominee. We

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the nomination of attorney Ramona Quichocho to be a Superior Court judge?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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NATION

Honoring veterans as monuments decay and funds dry up.

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Israel's president urges Israel and Palestine to resume peace talks.

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"Blue is the Warmest Color " wins at the Cannes Film Festival.

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Local

US territorial bill seeks 5-year transition extension, wage hike delay

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) newly introduced 56-page U.S. territorial omnibus bill seeks a delay in the CNMI's annual 50-cent increase in minimum wage every other year starting in September 2013, a five-year extension of the federalization transition period or up to Dec. 31, 2019, and the continued use of the E2-C visa classification for foreign investors in the CNMI so long as the transition period is extended, among other things.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, American Samoa Delegate Eni Faleomavaega, and U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna M. Christensen co-sponsored Sablan's H.R. 2200, whose sections are either specific to each of the territories or apply to all of them.

H.R. 2200 or the Territorial Omnibus Act of 2013 also seeks "waiver" of certain matching fund requirements and calls for a comprehensive energy plan, both for all the territories.

Under the bill, for a grant requiring matching funds of $500,000 or less, the entire matching requirement is waived.

If the required matching fund is more than half-a-million, then $500,000 of the matching requirement is waived.

These are higher than the current threshold of $200,000, for both provisions, Sablan said.

The bill was referred Thursday to at least five U.S. House of Representatives committees.

» CNMI, Guam, A. Samoa, US Virgin Islands delegates push for several issues

For quite a while now, long-time small to medium foreign investors in the CNMI holding E2-C investor visa have been worrying that they will be forced to leave the islands after Dec. 31, 2014, unless this investor visa classification is extended or these investors are given another status that will allow them to remain in the Commonwealth.

H.R. 2200 addresses these CNMI-based investors' concerns, as well as several other concerns and interests in four U.S. territories.

"This omnibus bill increases the minimum wage every other year, so we will skip the 2013 increase and resume it in 2014 and then another increase in 2016 until it reaches the federal level. This bill also conveys 3 miles submerged lands to the NMI, extends the E2-CNMI visa, and demands accountability of the $150 CW fee. We want to know how they're spending it," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Sablan, who is back in the CNMI, also said once the U.S. Senate bipartisan national immigration reform bill becomes law, many of the investors with E2-C visa could also seek relief under the immigration bill.

The immigration bill that provides pathway to citizenship to some 11,000 undocumented aliens in the United States has a CNMI-specific provision. It allows long-term foreign workers and others to apply for improved status such as CNMI-only permanent residency and, later, U.S. permanent residency or "green card," which is a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

Minimum wage hike

Of HR 2200's 18 sections, three—Sections 3, 4 and 5—are specific to the CNMI, covering the issues of submerged lands, minimum wage increase schedule adjustment, and amendments to the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

If the territorial omnibus bill is signed into law, the CNMI's 50-cent increase will be implemented every other year—instead of every year—until it reaches the federal wage floor of $7.25 an hour.

The CNMI's current minimum wage is $5.55 an hour. It is supposed to increase to $6.05 an hour in September this year but this will be skipped once this new bill becomes law.

The next 50-cent increase will happen instead in September 2014 and every other year thereafter.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said he supports delaying this year's minimum wage increase and implement it on an every-other-year basis starting in 2014.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has also taken the same stance.

Chamber president Alex Sablan, when asked for comment on the bill yesterday, said: "The Territorial Omnibus Act of 2013 has numerous sections that should be welcomed by the business community, and I would assume by the CNMI government."

"The sections on submerged lands, adjustment of scheduled wage increases, reporting use of the $150 fees charged by Homeland Security for the CW-1 permits, mention of an extension of the USCIS transitional period and lessening of matching funds for CNMI projects are all evidence of hard work by our U.S. Congressman Sablan," the Chamber president said.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), chairman of the CNMI House Ways and Means Committee, told *Saipan Tribune* that in his personal view, part of developing the economy is increasing the minimum wage of its workers, so he does not support any delay in the minimum wage increase.

"Right now people are struggling to make ends meet. An increase in salary means there would be more money circulating in the economy, more buying power for workers. 50 cents more per hour will go a long way for a lot of people," he said in a phone interview.

Delegate Sablan has once again pushed for the conveyance of 3 miles of submerged lands to the CNMI; this time by including it in a territorial omnibus bill.

This provides equity to the CNMI people, he has said, because the Northern Marianas is the only one among U.S. coastal areas that does not control its own submerged lands.

CNRA amendments

The omnibus bill's Section 5 has to do with amendments to the CNRA, including extending the transition period by five years or by up to Dec. 31, 2019.

Without such extension, the CNMI may lose access to most of the over 12,000 skilled and professional foreign workers that the local economy has relied upon, after Dec. 31, 2014.

This section also extends the E2-C investor visa classification, which applies only to certain CNMI investors.

While it does not say the extension is up to 2019, it does state, "until the date on which all [transition period] extensions are terminated."

Another proposed major amendment seeks CNMI accountability in its use of the $150 CW fee that employers pay for every foreign worker they hire.

The CW fee is supposed to fund ongoing vocational educational curricula and program development by CNMI educational entities. Currently, Northern Marianas College and the Public School System receive these CW fees.

But under the omnibus bill, the CNMI government must provide to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security—at the beginning of each fiscal year and prior to the payment of the CW fee into the local Treasury—a plan for the expenditure of the CW fee funds and a projection of the effectiveness of these expenditures in the placement of U.S. workers into jobs.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office/U.S. comp-

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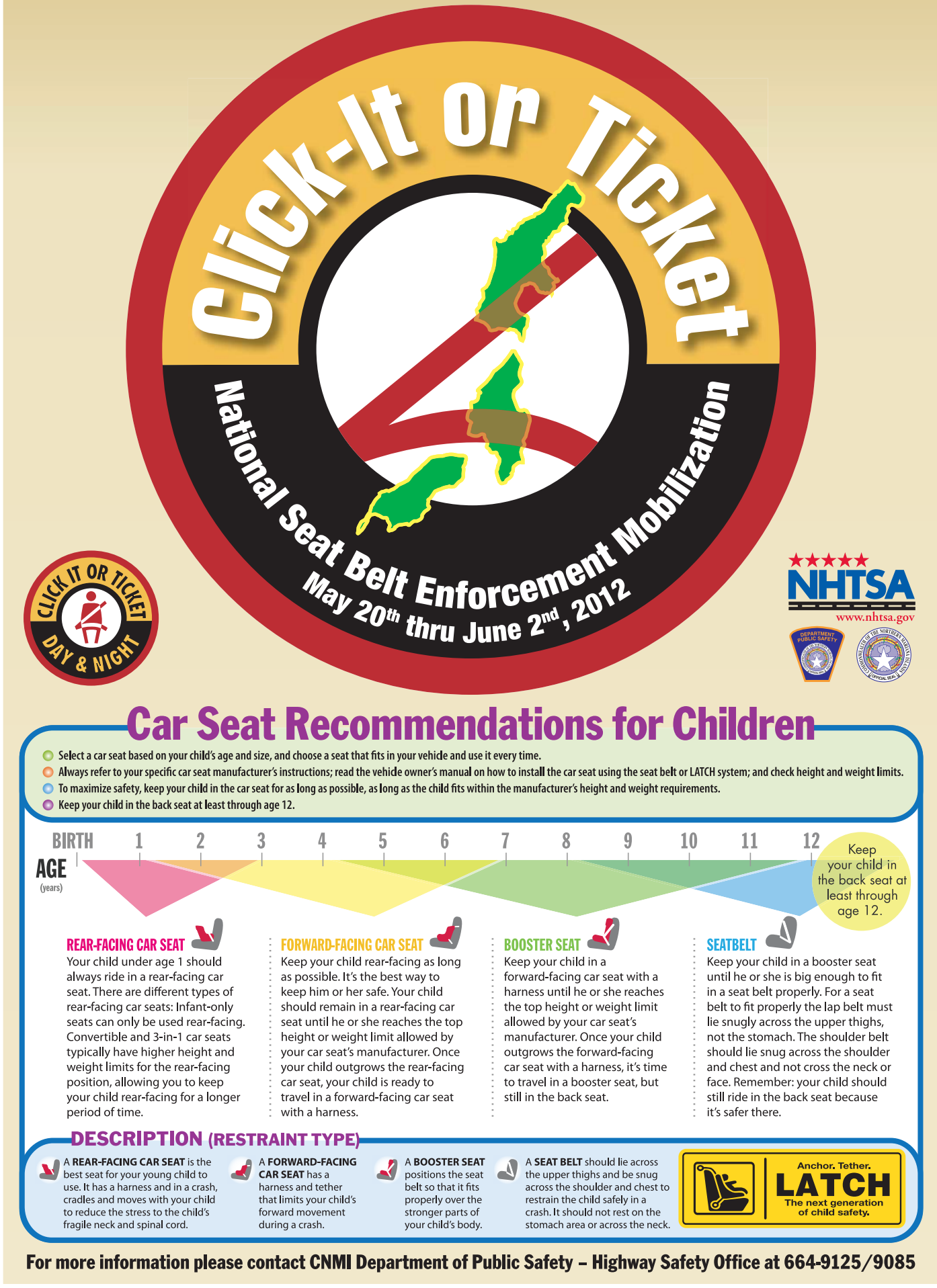
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Consultant: Obamacare stipulates multiple benefits for NMI

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A consultant for a federal health agency says the Affordable Care Act, more commonly known as Obamacare, offers nothing but help for the Commonwealth in its efforts to improve the quality of healthcare services it delivers to people.

Poki Stewart Namkung, MD, MPH, a visiting consultant from the U.S. Human and Health Services, said the Affordable Care Act authorized over $100 million of additional federal funding for the CNMI Medicaid program between July 2011 and Sept. 30, 2019. This potentially translates into increased access to health insurance for many more people in the CNMI.

This also increased the federal government's share of the required match for these funds to 55 percent from the previous statutory 50 percent, so the CNMI only has to provide a 45-percent matching fund up to 2019.

"ACA provides prescription drug cost relief for Medicare beneficiaries who fall into the 'donut hole' coverage gap and eligible beneficiaries also receive savings on prescription drugs through discounts on brand name and generic drugs, averaging $635 per individual," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

This is in addition to the protection the law gives individuals from unwarranted health insurance premium increases by the mandated use of the 'Medical Loss Ratio," which limits the profit margins of private insurance companies, she said.

"If you have a preexisting condition, insurers can no longer deny you coverage based on your health because of ACA. If you have children under age of 26, you can include them under your insurance if your policy includes coverage for dependents," she said.

All these will help the people of the Commonwealth because the law prohibits insurance companies from setting lifetime limits on coverage while annual dollar limits on coverage are restricted, Namkung said.

Funding for community health centers such as the new Kagman Health Center also increased, providing relief to the islands' sole public hospital and easing the high volume of patients it accommodates each day.

Besides the great help to Medicaid, she said the law also provides funds for the Maternal, Infant, Child and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, which supports children's health and development through evidence-based programs that focus on parental education, early education, nutrition, child abuse prevention, and healthcare. The CNMI has already received one of these grants.

She also noted the substantial funding for substance abuse prevention efforts and other behavioral health programs. The CNMI's Project BRABU, Namkung said, is an example of one of these holistic, culturally-based prevention programs.

The Affordable Care Act, officially known as The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, is a federal statute signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 23, 2010. Together with the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, it represents the most significant government expansion and regulatory overhaul of the U.S. healthcare system since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965. This law aims to increase the rate of health insurance coverage for Americans and reduce the overall costs of health care.

Although the Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010, the health care reforms it enacts roll out year by year until 2022 and many of the biggest reforms don't kick in until 2014.

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Manglona gives Buckingham more time to reply to lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has accepted an agreement that gives former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham more time to answer a lawsuit filed against him by a former CNMI government lawyer.

In an order Thursday, Manglona said that Buckingham has until June 4, 2013, to respond to the complaint filed by former assistant attorney general James William Taylor.

Taylor, through counsel Robert T. Torres, and the Colorado-based Buckingham, who is representing himself in the case, both sought the extension.

The parties agreed that Buckingham was properly served with Taylor's summons and complaint on May 1, 2013, by substitute service.

Buckingham's response would be due on June 4, 2013.

The parties also agreed to extend the CNMI government's and the Office of the Attorney General's Office's time to file a response to the complaint to June 4, 2013.

Taylor, a retired U.S. Air Force officer, is suing Buckingham and other co-defendants for age discrimination.

Taylor claimed that Buckingham fired him in 2011 without following proper procedures to save on cost and in retaliation for his advice against the approval of some sole-source contracts.

Taylor is a citizen of the state of Washington.

Buckingham was arrested recently in Colorado based on an arrest warrant issued by Superior Court associate Judge David Wiseman. Buckingham is out on bail.

The Office of the Public Auditor has filed criminal charges against Buckingham in connection with an alleged violation of election laws and illegal awards of a sole-source contract, among others.

EXTENSION

From Page 2

troller general is also required to report to Congress every two years "on the effectiveness of meeting the goals set out by the Commonwealth government in its annual plan for the expenditure of funds."

'Worth reviving'

The four delegates represent nearly 40,000 U.S. citizens and nationals, and asked that legislative issues affecting the U.S. territories be addressed.

Delegate Sablan said it has been years since an omnibus territories bill of this scope has been introduced.

He said he and the other delegates have decided that the tradition of having one such territorial measure in each Congress is worth reviving.

"Each of the insular areas has legislative proposals, larger and smaller, that we want enacted. Some affect all of us, some only one territory. But by putting a coordinated effort behind one bill, it is hoped that there is greater opportunity of success than in pushing each provision separately through the legislative process," he said.

Because of the nature of the bill, H.R. 2200 was referred to five U.S. House committees on May 23: Committees on Natural Resources; Education and the Workforce; Financial Services; Transportation and Infrastructure; and Energy and Commerce.

Other sections of the omnibus bill included a comprehensive energy plan for the territories, chief financial officer for the U.S. Virgin Islands, LIHEAP assistance for the U.S. Virgin Islands, its Castle Nugent and St. Croix National Historic Sites, Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act, prioritization of U.S. citizens and nationals in HUD assistance programs, benefit-to-cost ratio formulas for projects in American Samoa, recommendation for minimum wage in American Samoa, and a citizenship plebiscite for American Samoa, among other things.

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HOFSCHNEIDER

From Page 1

all desire to have the nominee be confirmed and perform his duty as the fifth member of the bench," Hofschneider said, responding to media questions at the 2013 Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday.

When asked about a recent court ruling and a racketeering complaint against Quichocho, among other things, Hofschneider said as far as he is concerned, "it's really in the hands of the Senate so direct all your questions to the Senate."

"Whenever there's an issue, especially a controversial one, there's always a left and right but as what the governor was saying, it's our desire for the Senate to confirm the nominee that we made the last couple weeks," he added.

As to the dismal rating given by the CNMI Bar Association on Quichocho's suitability for the job, Hofschneider said it was the Bar Association's purview. Only about 20 percent of the Bar Association's membership participated in the survey.

"That's the purview of the Bar to examine their members of the Bar and I think that's the way they examine their members. We leave it at that," he added.

Hofschneider also said he and Inos have not formally discussed the Quichocho nomination prior to the governor's off island trip.

As yesterday was a holiday, Hofschneider said he will check today the status of the required documents that are supposed to be submitted to the Senate in support of Quichocho's nomination.

These documents include Quichocho's police clearance, a copy of his résumé, a statement of financial interest filed with the Office of the Public Auditor, drug test receipt, and drug test result.

Without these documents, the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations cannot schedule a public hearing on the nomination.

EAGI panel chair Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Quichocho's cousin, earlier said a public hearing may be held this week.

Hofschneider said "if it's necessary," he will testify at the Senate EAGI panel's public hearing on Quichocho's nomination. Hofschneider, Cruz, and Quichocho are from Tinian.

Quichocho's nomination requires the Senate's advice and consent.

At least one member, Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota), expects Quichocho's nomination to face rough sailing in the Senate.

In earlier interviews, Hofschneider said the administration would want a judge from Tinian and Quichocho is the most senior among practicing attorneys from Tinian. Hofschneider also said the Superior Court needs a fifth judge to help deal with a backlog of cases.

So far, Quichocho's nomination has become the three-month-old Inos administration's most controversial appointment.

Quichocho was counsel for a taxpayers' lawsuit against a sole-source, 25-year $190.8 million diesel power purchase agreement that became one of the bases for two impeachment resolutions against former governor Benigno R. Fitial. Quichocho was also among the few practicing attorneys that openly supported Fitial's impeachment.

A few days after Quichocho was nominated, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo determined that Quichocho had induced a landowner to violate public policy by filing false documents with the Commonwealth Recorder's Office. Govendo said Quichocho's conduct of inducing landowner Joaquin Q. Atalig to breach a land lease agreement was improper.

Days later, an expert witness retained in a racketeering lawsuit against Quichocho stated that Quichocho took unfair and unethical advantage of a client "by sexually victimizing her while she was on depression medication, thwarting her recovery, in an act of moral turpitude, and violative of the American Bar Association's Disciplinary Rules."

Others from the CNMI and Guam, meanwhile, have come out in the media to support Quichocho's nomination, saying he would be a good judge.

Alaska trip

Hofschneider and press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed that Inos will be in Alaska "to meet with Sen. Lisa Murkowski on CNMI issues and what kind of support she can push for in the Senate." The governor is also set to visit with the governor and lieutenant governor of Alaska.

The acting governor said Inos will be off island up until next week.

This is Inos' first travel on official business to the U.S. mainland since he became governor on Feb. 20.

He went to Guam weeks ago to meet with a key U.S. military official in the region. That was the time when Hofschneider nominated Quichocho.

Later, both Inos and Hofschneider told reporters that they both chose and agreed on Quichocho's nomination subject to Senate confirmation.

PRIVATE MOMENT REINA PEREZ

A family member takes a moment to honor a fallen hero after yesterday's Memorial Day rites at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

SCHORR

From Page 1

Now 71, Schorr said his 25-and-a-half years working as OIA field representative had been a "rewarding" experience, although challenging at times.

He said those included the years when disgraced Washington, D.C. lobbyist Jack Abramoff was a lobbyist for the CNMI government and other entities, among other things.

"It wasn't cheerful to live through the late '90s when there was, I think, unrealistic hopes created, that the federal government can be intimidated by threats. I was caught in the middle—between the politics of Jack Abramoff in Washington, interests in politics out here, and his denigration of our office in Washington, which fueled negative feelings for the field office here, because of misunderstanding of Washington politics. … He made an effort to discredit the office, top to bottom. It fueled personal attacks, on me and others at the office, which were without merit," he said.

Schorr, born and raised in Michigan, started working with OIA in January 1987. At the time, the agency was still called the Office of Territorial and International Affairs, until 1995 when it was changed to OIA.

But while the office's name changed, Schorr's job title hadn't.

After months of training in Washington, D.C. and at least a week in Guam, Schorr arrived for the first time on Saipan on the eve of President's Day in 1987. Former governor Pedro P. Tenorio was then serving his second term in office.

Schorr said his arrival "wasn't totally unexpected."

"I already worked as a Peace Corps country director in [the Kingdom of] Tonga (1982 to 1985) before then so I had a sense of island. Of course that's Polynesia, this is Micronesia but [both are islands]… So I had some island experience. That background probably helped me get this position when I applied for it," he added.

Even before OIA could send a field representative in the CNMI, the position was already a controversial one as far as local officials were concerned.

Even before people came to see or know him, Schorr said he was already declared a *persona non grata* by the CNMI Legislature.

"They've never even met me," he said. "They thought I was the nose of the camel so to speak."

Six months after he got here, he was presented a "welcome" resolution by CNMI lawmakers.

"When I [actually] got here I was perceived as not such a bad guy, not a threat. Six months later, in a sense, the Legislature had a resolution of welcome which I assumed was sort of a backhanded apology, six months after I got here," he said.

Schorr, who majored in journalism in college, has become a familiar face in the community in or outside his position with the federal government.

He was a member of the Rotary Club of Saipan from 1987 to 2006, serving as its club president in 2003-2004 and held other officer positions during the time. He remains an associate member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

It was also on Saipan where Schorr met his wife, Hannah. Their son Robert, now 11, is a tennis star in the CNMI.

As for the Interior's recent confirmation that the U.S. Labor Ombudsman's Office will be closing at the end of fiscal year 2013, Schorr said in his personal view, it wasn't a wise decision to close the office.

"I think it should continue," he said. "I was in a position to be aware of what it's doing, and what its case workers are doing and I know it's positive."

The U.S. Labor Ombudsman's Office opened in 1998. Prior to that, OIA with Allen Stayman as director, along with other entities pushed for greater federal monitoring and assistance to foreign workers. At the time, cases of worker abuses along with human and sex trafficking were rampant.

"The office is in the best position to continue to monitor and assist in all those cases that come in," Schorr added. An online petition to keep the U.S. Labor Ombudsman's Office open is ongoing.

Nine months after his official retirement on Aug. 1, 2012, Schorr said he still receives calls and emails from in and outside the CNMI about OIA-related matters.

"Now I'm easing into retirement," he added.

NMI

From Page 1

2011, was accused of wire fraud, involving its representative.

He was accompanied by CNMI private counsels Matthew Gregory and William Satterberg.

"It was very successful. Every time you have a settlement and you overcome a litigation and then you bring money to the CNMI, I believe that's a success," the acting governor told reporters at the 2013 Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday.

Hofschneider declined to give the estimate amount of the settlement at this time as there are still some details that need to be finalized.

"But I want to inform everyone, the general public, that it's a settlement and we've got the money that we desperately need," he added.

In 2011, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Interior Department's Office of Inspector General jointly investigated Severn Trent Services, a California-based company.

The investigation led to the filing of wire fraud charges against a sales representative for Severn Trent Services named Jesse Chung Wu.

Wu allegedly forged a document stating that the reverse osmosis unit was certified for medical use when in fact it was not. Wu allegedly earned a commission of $2,100 in the sale of the unit.

The CNMI government's prime contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., which won the contract to build the CHC hemodialysis building, had subcontracted a portion of the work, which included the furnishing of two reverse osmosis units, to Saipan Ice & Water Co. Inc. Saipan Ice procured the two units from Severn Trent Services through Wu.

The use of reverse osmosis units without FDA 510(K) certification would have put CHC patients at risk and subjected CHC to liability.

The forged FDA certification was discovered around 2009. Within weeks, lawmakers at the time conducted a formal inquiry on CHC's new dialysis center, which ballooned to a $22-million project from the original price of $5 million, spawned by the discovery of the alleged forged FDA certification.

CUC fuel purchases in eight months total $38.9 million

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's still four months before the end of the fiscal year, yet the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has already spent $38.9 million for fuel and is now planning to adjust the power rate of its customers late this summer.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the agency spends about $5 million a month for fuel. From the start of the fiscal year in October 2012 through December 2012, fuel purchases amounted to $16.3 million. That has now ballooned to $38.9 million, based on agency records as of May 24, 2013.

» Power rate hike petition planned for July

CUC is now projected to incur a deficit of about $8 million up until the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, Warren said, the bulk of which is projected to come from non-fuel expenses.

When asked how CUC is resolving the deficit, Warren said they are currently suspending many important items such as maintenance.

"We are addressing the deficit by expense control, deferring certain preventative maintenance measures and aggressively seeking and applying for any available grant funding," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He assured, however, that there will be no rate hike in CUC's utility rates in May and June.

He admitted, though, that the corporation is planning to submit a rate hike petition once the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission board goes in full session.

"Now that the PUC is back in business, we anticipate filing a rate petition later this summer. We are still working on our rate submission, so I do not have any numbers yet. At this time, no LEAC rate adjustment is anticipated for June," he said.

CUC last increased its LEAC (levelized energy adjustment clause) rate on March 5 due to increasing fuel cost in the world market. The rate was adjusted by 7.15 percent and became $0.31878 per kWh.

LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It goes up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants. The other component of the bill is the electric base rate.

CUC is a nonprofit organization and its operation heavily relies on the payment of its power, water, and wastewater customers. It remains under a state of emergency due its financial crisis.

In a recent report to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, acting CUC executive director Alan Fletcher enumerated the many progresses accomplished in each utility systems.

He said, though, that there remains multiple issues that continue to challenge the agency. Topping all these challenges, he said, is the lack of funding.

Fletcher disclosed that lack of adequate operating capital negatively effects operations and maintenance such as acquiring material and equipment to perform daily operational functions. Funding shortage also hampers the agency's ability to hire skilled workers, procure needed equipment such as trucks, and uncertified funding for training programs for its personnel.

COMMISSION ADVISER
Director General Paul Wang of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam presents past Lions Charter president Jerry Tan, right, with a Certificate of Appointment by the Overseas Compatriot Affairs Commission of the Republic of China (Taiwan), appointing Tan as the Saipan Area Adviser of the Commission, together with a congratulatory letter from its head, Minister Ying-yih Wu.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Accomplishments

According to Fletcher's report, Saipan's peak demand is at 30 megawatts and, with 54 MW of available energy, a substantial standby energy is stored.

CUC has also completed the replacement of 18 liners and 14 pistons on engine No. 8; replacement of 4 liners on engine No. 7; and replacement of 18 cylinder heads on engine No. 3.

The re-routing of electrical conduits and wirings for the installation of new radiators on engine No. 3 was also completed as well as the completion of the rehabilitation of Power Plant 4 fuel tanks B and C.

Fletcher said that CUC was also able to maintain fuel efficiency above 15 kWh/gallon, purchased 26 new liners and 14 new pistons for the big units, and 36 new liners for the small units using $4.4 million in ARRA funds.

According to Fletcher, improving engine performance to get maximum fuel efficiency is being hampered due to the high cost of diesel.

US warships' visit to Saipan slows down

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Armed Forces Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce has noted a slowdown in the visits of U.S. Naval warships in the Commonwealth.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, who chairs the SCC Armed Forces Committee, told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview last week that the Chamber usually entertains the U.S. warships that come to visit the island.

Wiseman said these warships are usually given the choice of ports they want to go to for what they call rest-and-recreation stops.

Saipan is usually among the top rest and recreation destinations in this area. "However, we haven't had a warship in a while," he said.

Wiseman said there is never any definite schedule for warships to come in as their arrival depends on the missions they have elsewhere. One of the possible reasons for the slowdown in visits is that the vessels may be out of this area.

Another possible reason are the austerity measures—called sequestrations—that automatically took effect months ago that enforces cuts in the budgets of all federal agencies.

"For example, all civilian employees of the military, hundreds of thousands, have been forced to take one day off a week for 11 weeks," Wiseman said.

He said the military budget was drastically affected by these austerity measures and that this may affect the ability of ships to make additional side trips.

"Of course I'm speculating as to that. I don't know for a fact if that's the case," Wiseman pointed out.

He said the Chamber provides courtesy to the military ships to encourage them to come in for the benefit of the business community. He said the warship visits are helpful in spurring economic activities on the island.

"When a ship comes in there's tens of thousands of dollars spent on businesses," he said.

To encourage increased ship visits, the Chamber has been implementing many amenities for them through the years. Among these amenities are phone companies installing pay phones so the crew of the ships can call their loved ones, friends, and families.

Wiseman said they provide a tent when the ships arrive, while the Marianas Visitors Authority hands out maps and brochures.

"We usually meet the captains of the ships and staff and we give them a lot of information about the island," he said.

A submarine usually carries between 120 to 140 crew, while a frigate has 200 to 250 crew, and cruiser and destroyer carry between 320 to 400 crew.

Wiseman said a ship stays an average of four days.

He said the USS *Frank Cable*, which is homeported in Guam, brings over a thousand people from Guam.

USS *Frank Cable* made its 10th visit to Saipan in January 2013 with about 500 crew.

USS *Gary*, a destroyer, has made seven visits to the island since 1997.

Wiseman has been chairman of the Chamber's Armed Forces Committee since the late 1990's.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board will hold its FY 2013 Special Membership Meeting on Thursday, May 30, 2013, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at the Governor's Executive Conference Room, 1st Floor, Administration Bldg., Saipan. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

Preliminary Agenda

Presiding – Thomas J. Camacho, Chairman

I. Call to Order
II. Welcome & Introduction of new Member & Guests
III. Roll call
IV. Adoption of Agenda
V. Adoption of April 18, 2013 2nd Quarterly Meeting Minutes
VI. Correspondence
VII. Public Comment on Agenda Items
VIII. Old Business
A. Saipan Fixed-Flex Route & Paratransit System Feasibility Study RFP: Status
B. Propose COTA Standard Operating Procedures: Action
C. ADA Para-Transit System: Call-a-Ride Saipan (CARS) Transportation Services for People with Disabilities and Older Adults May 29, 2013 Launching
D. Public School System: Response to COTA's Vehicle Transfer Request
E. New COTA Website: www.cota.gov.mp
IX. New Business (Action Items)
A. COTA's Propose Title VI Plan Update: Action
B. COTA's Propose Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) Plan & Goals: Action
C. COTA's Propose Bus Oxygen and Respirator Policy: Action
D. COTA's Propose Carry-on Baggage Policy & Procedures: Action
E. COTA's Propose Animal Service Policy: Action
F. COTA's Propose Changes to HB. 18-39, "Parking Meter Act": Action
X. Grant Status Report
A. Veterans Transportation & Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) II Grant
i. One-Call/One-Click Transportation Service Center
ii. Transportation Marketing, Outreach and Planning
B. FY 2013 Rural Formula Grant Full Apportionment Adjustment: Action
XI. Executive Session: CPTAB may vote to go into executive session as provided under the CNMI Open Government Act
XII. Misc.
XIII. Next Meeting: July 18, 2013
XIV. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require special accommodations are requested to call COTA three (3) days in advance at 664-2292.

/S/THOMAS J. CAMACHO
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant No. MP-18-X007-00, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

Nation's fallen heroes honored in Memorial Day rites

By REINA PEREZ
STUDENT REPORTER

"A nation rebuilds itself not only by the men it produces but by the men it honors."

So said Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, quoting former U.S. President John F. Kennedy as he joined the Commonwealth yesterday to honor the nation's fallen heroes during the annual Memorial Day rites at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery.

Paulino, the keynote speaker at yesterday's ceremonies, stressed the need to continue to honor these fallen heroes who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom, to honor them not only on Memorial Day but every day.

The solemn occasion became that much more somber when Paulino addressed the recent loss of two soldiers of the Guam National Guard who lost their lives in a car bomb attack in Afghanistan on May 16. The deaths of Sgt. Eugene M. Aguon of Mangilao and SPC Dwayne W. Flores of Sinajana brought fresh awareness of the sacrifice paid by our fallen heroes.

A moment of silence was paid during the ceremony for these two fallen heroes. The only sound that could be heard during this moment was that of the trees' leaves swaying in the breeze.

Paulino also acknowledged the sacrifices made by the families of the fallen heroes.

He stressed three key ways to continue to honor the nation's fallen heroes that they may not be forgotten by future generations: "We must remind them about the sacrifices already made…We must find ways to cement the legacy of our fallen heroes…We need to continue this great tradition of gathering together every year."

The Memorial Day service began with the opening remarks of acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider, who set the mood of the ceremony by focusing on what our fallen heroes had done and how they did it.

As part of tradition, a roll call of fallen comrades was also made. Family members of the fallen heroes came forward when their relative's name was called and received a candle and flower to embellish the grave of their lost loved one.

The atmosphere was quite solemn and emotional as family members brought their gifts to the gravesite.

The laying of the wreath and a 21-gun salute by E. Company, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment 9th Mission Support Command of the U.S. Army Reserve followed the roll call.

Besides Hofschneider and Paulino, the event was also graced by CNMI Military & Veterans Affairs Office's Vicente Camacho and Rev. Ryan P. Jimenez.

The Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band from Saipan Southern High School provided the pre-ceremonial music as well as the post-ceremonial music while the color guard of JROTC Manta Ray Battalion, also from Saipan Southern High School, presented the U.S. and CNMI flags.

The CNMI's list of fallen soldiers in connection with the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars are: Army Sgt. Yihgyh "Eddie" L. Chen, Army SSgt. Wilgene Lieto, Army Spc. Derence W. Jack, Army Sgt. Jesse J. Castro, Marine LCpl Adam Q. Emul, Army SPC Leeroy A. Camacho, Army PFC John D. Flores, Army PFC Victor M. Fontanilla, Army Spc. Joe Junior G. Charfauros, Navy Seaman Anamarie San Nicolas Camacho, Army Sgt. Brian S. Leon Guerrero, Army SSgt. Julian F. Manglona, Air Force SrA Audra P.M. Winkfield, Marine Cpl. Dave Michael Maliksi Santos, Sgt. George Joseph Affatica Sablan, Marine Lance Cpl Ramon Taisakan Kaipat, U.S. Army Spc Joselyn Tara Mafnas Sablan, and U.S. Army Spc Robert Jason Santos Deleon Guerrero.

REINA PEREZ

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider, Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, military and veteran service members, next-of-kin, distinguished guests, and the general public follow behind the wreath as the laying of the wreath takes place.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gone but not forgotten: His family remembers their fallen hero, Cpl. Jeff W. Jack, who was killed in action in Iraq on Oct, 31, 2005.

REINA PEREZ

CNMI Military & Veterans Affairs Office Vicente Camacho directs the memorial ceremony.

REINA PEREZ

Keynote speaker Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, gives a speech to honor not only our fallen heroes but also their families as well.

REINA PEREZ

The Marianas High School Chorus sings both the U.S. and CNMI anthems.

REINA PEREZ

In the roll call of fallen comrades, family members are given a candle and flower to set on their loved one's grave.

REINA PEREZ

The Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band provides the pre-ceremonial music as well as the post-ceremonial music for the ceremony.

DELEON GUERRERO TO NMC GRADUATES:

'Never, never stop dreaming'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

New graduates of the islands' lone community college received a meaningful remark from their keynote speaker, whom they say, never failed to amaze and inspire them.

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, principal of the Mount Carmel School and member of the Board of Education—challenged the new graduates of the Northern Marianas College on Saturday to continue persevere to reach their goals and potentials.

In a stirring speech as keynote speaker for NMC's 33rd Commencement Exercise, Deleon Guerrero said it not enough to just set goals or objectives—one must also dream.

"What do you want to be when you grow up? Recently, I asked a group of third graders this question. Some of the answers they gave were scientist, FBI agent, movie star, astronaut, a winner on *American Idol*, and even president of the United States of America. Needless to say, I was inspired by their answers. There's no limit to what they imagine they can accomplish with their lives and they don't settle for anything less than where their imaginations take them."

This is exactly the opposite view of adults, who usually settle for less, Deleon Guerrero said.

According to him, this contrast between children and adults proves a very sad truth: kids dream bigger than most grown-ups do. He said that something happens when people get older. They grow up and have more realistic, more practical dreams. In fact, he said, adults don't even call them dreams anymore but "goals" or "objectives" or "strategic priorities."

Deleon Guerrero, who is an adjunct instructor at the college, partly blames this on educators like himself.

"We all need to wake up and start dreaming again. We all have dreams. It may be called different things in different cultures—a vocation, a calling, a life's purpose—but no matter who you are or where you come from, each one of you has a dream of pursuing something that you're passionate about, something that inspires you, something that is fundamental to who you are."

Deleon Guerrero said he's learned over the years that only three things in this world bring him true happiness, and it's not fame, fortune, or good looks. What brings true happiness, he said, is physical well-being, close, meaningful relationships, and the kind of personal fulfillment that comes from doing something that one love doing.

He suggested three steps that will help the new graduates find flow, get in the zone, and live out their dreams: make time to reflect on what your dreams are; finding the courage to pursue them; and sharing those dreams with the world.

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them. And believe me, it does take courage to pursue our dreams. A lot of courage. Because there's no guarantee whatsoever that we'll succeed. And often, in pursuing our dreams, we will fail time and time again. But I would rather fail miserably pursuing my dreams than to live miserably ignoring them," he said.

Deleon Guerrero describes failure as just a back door to success, an opportunity to learn and grow, and a chance to get back up and give one's dreams another shot. Dreams, he said, mean very little if they do not touch and inspire others.

Deleon Guerrero said he likes to see "dreamers" in his own backyard. He cited the likes of social change dreamers like Tina Sablan, Glen Hunter, and Ed Propst; performing arts dreamers like Will DeWitt, Harold Easton, and Paul Dujua; and the world of business dreamers like Wayne Pangelinan, Erica Thornburgh, and Eleanor Cabrera.

"You can go against the grain, defy the world as we know it, and live out your dreams. Because I, for one, would rather live in dreams of possibility than die in nightmares of reality. So listen to your innermost self, stay true to your dreams, and don't ever settle for anything less than making those dreams come true. And never, never stop dreaming. Now go out there and dream on."

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Keynote speaker Galvin Deleon Guerrero delivers his message to the Class of 2013 during Saturday's commencement exercises at Marianas High School where 180 individuals graduated from the Northern Marianas College.

Probationer tests positive for 'ice' use again

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man on federal probation after serving a 120-month prison sentence for armed robbery in 2004 recently tested positive for using methamphetamine or "ice" during random drug tests and was placed under home detention.

According to U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola, Daniel M. Quitugua admitted to using "ice" and is finding it hard to fight his addiction.

On Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona placed Quitugua under home detention for three months.

During that time, Quitugua will be restricted to his residence at all times except for work, school, religious services, medical, substance abuse treatment, court appearances, and other activities approved in advance by the probation officer.

Quitugua is currently on substance abuse treatment and testing.

It was reportedly Quitugua who handed a cell phone to Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu at the Department of Corrections last January. As a result, the senator is a facing another criminal case.

Quitugua and John Gerald Castro Pangelinan were charged over the armed robbery at Capital Poker in Sadog Tasi on April 29, 2004. Although the defendants failed to get any money from the establishment, Pangelinan reportedly shot and injured the security guard and a cashier.

The two pleaded guilty. Quitugua was sentenced to 12-months. Pangelinan was slapped with a 289-month prison term.

Quitugua's five years of supervision began on Jan. 14, 2013. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Consolidate your insurance policies and save money

pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.

In today's tough economy, we are always trying to find ways to save money even when it comes to insurance. While we want to prepare for the worst by purchasing insurance enough to adequately cover our risks, some of us sacrifice the exposure because it simply does not fit into our budgets. So, how can we continue to protect our possessions and save a few dollars at the same time? The answer is to consolidate.

There are still many of us that deal with two or more insurance companies when we really do not have to. Most insurance companies offer discounts when you "bundle" or "package."

Some insurers offer a car and home insurance package program, which can save you upwards of 10 percent or more. The CNMI auto insurance tariff, which sets rates for auto insurance premiums within specific limits of coverage, offers an option for a multiple car discount for those who have more than one vehicle insured with an insurance company. The multiple car discount can be applied to sedans, light trucks, or any insurable privately owned vehicle by an individual, spouse, and child who are residents of the same household.

Businesses can also save by consolidating. It is not uncommon for some insurers to offer businesses discounts on commercial property and liability insurance policies, if they also insure coverage for workers' compensation and group health insurance, for example.

There is also a "non-insurance" cost to consolidating your insurance policies with one insurance company. By having only one insurance company or agent, you would be able to save time and effort. You would not need to go through the hassle of dealing with two or three different agents or companies, which can become an administrative nightmare.

Consolidating is a simple process. If you are unsure whether or not your insurer offers package or bundle discounts, give them a call. It is also advisable to shop around to find what is best for you and your budget.

If you are interested in learning more about consolidation of insurance policies and how it can save you money, call Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. at 234-6267/7722/7310 or visit their office located at Joeten Center in Susupe. You may also visit www.pacificains.com or send an inquiry via email to piui@pacificains.com. Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. offers insurance coverage for auto, homes, businesses, marine, life, dental, vision, and health. It is also a general agent for Century Insurance Company, Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited, and Pacific Guardian Life. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-CHC/CGS-103

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 11, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE CHE'CHU LALAHI PROGRAM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION, COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

THE COMPLETE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROPOSAL SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO HERBERT J. SABLAN NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MAY 31, 2013 BY FAX TO (670) 236-8766 OR EMAIL AT herbert.sablan@gmail.com RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE CNMI RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSALS IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BE COME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
INTERIM, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950,
TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY'13 Second General Membership meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 2013 at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Roll Call by SRC Secretary
III. Review and adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and adoption of the FY '12 Fourth Meeting Minutes (09/20/12)
V. Reports
  A. Sub-Committee Chairpersons
  B. SRC Chairperson
  C. OVR Director
    a) OVR Highlights
    b) Fiscal Status
    c) Consumer Data
VI. Old Business
  A. Comments & Adoption of FY 2014 VR State Plan
  B. 2013 Resource Plan
VII. New Business
  A. 2013 NDEAM
  B. Input on Social Media for SRC
  C. Needs Assessment
VIII. Consumer Forum
IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Isidro K. Seman
CHAIRMAN

TRACS accreditation team visits Eucon

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A team from the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, or TRACS, visited the Eucon International College for three days last week as part of standard inspection that aims to give the school another 10-year accreditation.

Eucon was given until Aug. 15 this year to comply with the team's recommendations and is required to appear at the accreditation commission meeting in November in San Diego, California. The decision on the institution's accreditation is expected to be known after the assembly.

The six-member team that inspected the facility on May 20-23 included five evaluators and a commission staff representative. The team was composed of Dr. Tanmay Pramanik, Dr. Joseph Paturi, Dr. Quentin Nantz, Carla Krueger, Koshy P. George, and Lisa M. Collins.

Eucon president and founder Dr. Christian Wei, in a statement to *Saipan Tribune*, said the Eucon family is very happy with the overall results of the evaluation. He disclosed that Eucon received eight recommendations, and 14 total suggestions from the team evaluators. He praised the school's faculty and staff for their effort in ensuring the evaluation process will be smooth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eucon International College president and founder Dr. Christian Wei, left, welcomes members of the visiting team as they tour the facility during a three-day site visit last week.

According to Eucon's director of institutional effectiveness, Vilma Reyes, the positive results of the team visit was a collaborative effort.

"It is actually a big blessing from God, and a product of the collaborative effort of the good team we have. On behalf of the administration, I commend and thank the faculty and staff for their dedication and hard work, for the sleepless nights, restless holidays and weekends in completing the self-study, strategic plan, assessment plan, data collections and evaluations, and all other preparations on top of their regular work load to achieve this success. I would also like to acknowledge the cooperation of our students and alumni who diligently filled up and returned various survey forms and questionnaires for us to accurately address each area for improvement," she said.

Eucon offers a bachelor's degree in Education, bachelor's degree in Bible, certificate of achievement in English as a Second Language, and certificate of achievement in Chinese Missions. The fall semester will begin on Sept. 3, 2013. For more details, call at 234-3203/7 or email at admission@eucon.edu and www.eucon.edu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officials of the Eucon International College, led by Dr. Christian Wei, gather for a group photo with the accreditation visiting team last week.

16 sign up for Pinoy Super Gay Model 2013

The drag modeling competition in this year's Pistang Pinoy 2013 already has 16 participants signed up, according to the United Filipino Organization.

Those vying for the Pinoy Super Gay Model 2013 will compete in three categories—Best in Fantasy Costume, Best in Talent, and Best in Evening Gown.

UFO is putting up $300 prize money for the winner of each category and additional prizes will go to runners-up as well. A special award will also be given to the Darling of the Crowd.

Pinoy Super Gay Model 2013 is the first time UFO is organizing a drag modeling competition as part of its annual Pistang Pinoy celebrations.

The one-day Pistang Pinoy 2013 will be held on June 16, from 7pm to 10pm at the Garapan Fishing Base across the Kristo Rai Church.

This year's theme is "Magkaisa: Para sa isang Bansa ng pagbabago at maunlad na Pilipinas" or "Unite: For country and change and progress for the Philippines."

Program of activities includes a medical mission led by BAYANI Association in the morning with blood pressure, sugar test, and eye check.

During the daytime, activities include games like palosebo, tug-o-war, sack race for adults and kids, playhouse for kids, family/group talent contest (aka *Showtime* style) with at least eight members with prizes of $300, $200, and $100, respectively.

A father-and-son or father-and-daughter singing and dance contests coinciding with Father's Day will also be held with prizes of $100, $75, and $50 for first, second, and third. There will also be a children's drawing contest (PID theme) and volunteer performers. For the daytime program inquiries and program scheduling, call Minda Castro at 235-4286.

Food vendors and non vendors, meanwhile, are encouraged to register early. Tent rentals will be $50 for food and $40 for non-food. Call or text Lynn Dela Cruz at 789-8386, Evelyn Deazeta at 989-3845, or Flor Miranda at 233-3845 for more information.

KWAW 100.3fm listeners can also participate in Pistang Pinoy 2013 via a radio trivia competition from June 10 to 15 and prizes can be claimed on June 16 at the Pistang Pinoy grounds. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 28, 2005

DoF suspends land payments

The Department of Finance has put on hold land compensation requests, following an instruction from the Attorney General's Office. "We have to follow the instruction from the AGO. We don't want to violate the law. If I don't follow their advice and there's a legal problem, I would have to defend myself on my own. I don't have money for that," said Finance Secretary Fermin M. Atalig in an interview Thursday. In a May 9 letter, the AGO instructed Finance to stop processing all land compensation drawdowns amid concerns over the Marianas Public Lands Authority's handling of recent land compensation payments. The AGO said that it was reviewing several drawdown requests pending approval at Finance.

'CUC not above the Constitution'

While they support the governor's state of emergency declaration on utilities, lawmakers disagree with the Attorney General's interpretation that the $10-million standby loan credit with Bank of Guam is not a public debt. Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is clearly part of the government and, although it is autonomous, it is by no means exempted from the constitutional prohibition against borrowing for "operations." Hofschneider cited that Article 10, Section 4 of the Constitution prohibits public indebtedness "for operating expenses of the Commonwealth government or its political subdivisions."

May 28, 2006

Two families off to HK Disneyland

With an extra bounce in their steps and profound excitement visible in their faces, the Manalili and Pamintuan families checked in early Friday morning at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport for a flight to the former Crown Colony where they will spend the next three days as part of Coca-Cola's Hong Kong Disneyland Family Trip promotion. The Manalilis—parents Edward and Lily, twins Eddie and Lina, and Ainkie Boy—were the first to arrive at the terminal followed by the Pamintuans—Angelito, Maria Zenaida, 12-year-old Angel Mar, and two-year-old Henin Zea. Almost in unison, the Manalili twins and Ainkie Boy said they were very excited about their trip to the Magic Kingdom. Their mother also thanked her sister, Rita Sablan, for donating the prize to them after the Education associate commissioner begged off from the trip because of an upcoming job interview.

$17.6M CPA bonds on negative watch

SAN FRANCISCO—Fitch Ratings has placed the $17.6 million Commonwealth Ports Authority's airport revenue bonds on Rating Watch Negative, reflecting the airport's operational deterioration that is resulting in narrowing financial margins and inadequate debt service coverage. Fitch believes a technical bond default may occur in fiscal 2006, reflecting debt service coverage below the 1.25 times rate covenant. CPA management has told Fitch, however, that the September bondholder payments will be made in full and on time with operating revenues and available cash.

May 28, 2007

Asiana developing new niche markets for CNMI

Asiana Airlines yesterday bared its grand plans for increasing Korean tourist arrivals to the Northern Marianas. Asiana President Joo-An Kang said Asiana is developing new niche markets in Korea that suit the CNMI's characteristics as a destination. Kang came to Saipan yesterday for the launching of the airline's new flights from Incheon. Asiana added two new daytime flights and converted two night flights from the previous schedule into daytime flights. The new service brought to 11 the number of Asiana's weekly flights to Saipan.

Fitial orders garment hiring stopped

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has ordered the Department of Labor to stop garment factories from hiring any new workers. Forecasting the "fast-tracked demise" of the garment industry to follow the new federal wage hike law, the governor said that no additional garment workers should be allowed into the CNMI until those displaced are hired or sent home. "The proposal for stopping the entry of new garment workers has been discussed for some time. I think it is time for us to act to make sure that no new workers come into the Commonwealth until the pool of non-resident workers created by the closures (and imminent closure) of garment factories are absorbed or repatriated," the governor said in a memorandum on Friday.

Tinian, Rota airports incur $1.6M losses in FY2012

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two of the three international airports in the Commonwealth incurred operational losses last fiscal year amounting to over $1.6 million, based on documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

In the 12-month period—from Oct. 1, 2011, to Sept. 30, 2012—the Commonwealth Ports Authority posted $12.18 million in airport revenues. The bulk of this figure, or 95 percent, was generated at the Saipan International Airport, while the rest are from the Rota and Tinian airports.

Records show that CPA's airports on Rota and Tinian ended fiscal year 2012 at a loss. The Rota airport accounted for a loss of $861,986.10 while Tinian operations resulted in a loss of $742,044.24. This is a combined income loss of $1.6 million.

The Saipan International Airport showed a total operating income of $4.45 million but due to the combined losses incurred by the Tinian and Rota airports, this dragged down CPA's net operating income to $2.8 million.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* also showed that the ports authority's expenditure in fiscal year 2012 also slightly exceeded the budget by $200,997. It was learned that CPA's budget for expenses was set at $9.14 million versus actual expenditure of $9.34 million in the 12-month period.

The excess in the agency's expenditure was due to professional services, repairs and maintenance, supplies, expenses in utilities, fuel, and compensatory time payouts.

Despite the increase in expenses, CPA is projected to achieve its debt service coverage ratio for airports.

Rota and Tinian performance

Based on the agency's record, the Rota airport posted total revenues of $186,166.93 in fiscal year 2012. However, it incurred total operating expenses of $1,048, 153, which means a shortfall of $861,986.

Among the Rota airport's biggest expenses last fiscal year were personnel and benefits, $673,581; travel, $21,792; repairs and maintenance, $16,607; supplies and materials, $40,814; fuel, $24,738; utilities, $247,583; board travel, $6,516; communications, $6,743; and contribution to OPA, $9,744.

The Tinian airport, meantime, showed total revenues of $403,179 in fiscal year 2012. Its operating expenses, however, reached $1.145 million, resulting in an operating loss of $742,044.

Tinian's $1.1 million expenses went to personnel, totaling $673,859, and non-personnel cost totaling $471,363, which included $14,480 for travel; repairs and maintenance, $21,471; supplies, $46,699; utilities, $334,273; and board travel, $6,611.

Tinian seaport

Saipan Tribune learned that CPA seaports' earned a total of $6.06 million in fiscal year 2012. The Saipan seaport accounted for 95 percent of this amount; the rest is from the Tinian and Rota seaports.

Records show that actual revenues last fiscal year were under-budget by $119,858. Expenses totaled $2.2 million, which outperformed budget forecasts by $81,105.

"Seaports [on] Saipan and Rota ended the fiscal year positively with operating income of $3,885,164 and $24,212 respectively. Tinian ended the year with an operating loss of $48,115," part of the report states.

Records indicate that despite the actual performances of cumulative revenues, cost controls allowed seaports to slightly exceed a budgeted debt service coverage of 130 percent.

Matsumotos reaffirm ties with Saipan

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Former Saipan resident Ayako Matsumoto, right, translates for Gov. Eloy S. Inos during Nenpou Shinkyo Buddhist Denomination's visit to the Japanese Peace Memorial in Marpi earlier this month.

A familiar face flew in with the Nenpou Shinkyo Buddhist Denomination a couple of weeks back when former Saipan residents Ayako and Willie Matsumoto returned to their second home.

Ayako Matsumoto said it was really nice to be back in the Commonwealth, albeit for just a short stint to chaperone the Nenpou Shinkyo group.

The group was on Saipan for their annual pilgrimage to honor World War II dead and pray for peace at the Banzai Cliff and Japanese Peace Memorial in Marpi.

Group members Akiko Kakibayashi, Takako Tamashiro, Mariko Nagata, Miyuki Shinjyo, and Sachiko Yamamto also performed Ryukyu cultural dances at the second week of the Taste of Marianas.

Save for the heavy rain, Matsumoto said the Nenpou Shinkyo members enjoyed their stay in the CNMI.

As for their business interests on island, she said that Pacific Eagle Ent., Inc. continues to exist on Saipan even though she and her husband have relocated to Japan.

Ayako Matsumoto said her husband comes to Saipan once every two to three months to check on their business.

"One of our business is supplying Japanese parts to hotel and companies and import auto parts. Once we receive email, we send an estimate and send it out from Japan. We are also working as a consultant for Japanese groups who want to make a relationship with CNMI," she said.

In Japan, Ayako Matsumoto takes care of her mother and manages a small café and restaurant in her hometown of Himeji City in Hyogo.

Even though she's already in Japan, she doesn't forget Saipan and even encourages customers to come and visit the island.

"We try to spread Saipan information to customers. There are some hotel brochures, Saipan, Tinian, Rota map, free magazine, and Leslie Ware's beautiful photo book in my shop, and also, of course, with island music and promotional DVD from the [Marianas Visitors Authority]," she said.

Ayako Matsumoto hopes to return to Saipan in September or October for the annual Japanese Festival.

Eventually, she hopes to one day return permanently and open a short- or middle-term rehabilitation and healing facility.

"This is my dream. I'm interested in it because Saipan has a wonderful climate and beautiful nature, sunset, and ocean view. I would also need a dietitian to make a menu to control calories. I also need the help of local businesses as I need a gym to help maintain clients' body balance and relax through massages. And they [clients] can also plant vegetables or flowers, orchids, and fish on Saipan. I would like to open this kind of healing business for various ages, young and old, from Japan." ***(Saipan Tribune)***

GOOD JOB!

Congratulations to Private Silayoong Litulumar, who completed his basic Marine Corps training in San Diego, California, on May 24, 2013. You truly deserve the success and we are so proud of your accomplishment. May you face every challenge with your sincere efforts, as you have always done before. God bless you! Semper Fi! We love you always! Greetings come from your Litulumar family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Belated happy birthday to M.J. Subang, left, who celebrated her 11th birthday last May 17. Greetings from your mom, dad, kuya, younger sister, family, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC's ABE program hosts personal dev't training

The Northern Marianas College Adult Basic Education Program is inviting all General Educational Development and Adult School graduates, current ABE students, and those who have been enrolled in the ABE program to register for the Personal Development Training taking place the college's As Terlaje campus in Room D-1 on June 1, 2013.

The training will focus on providing participants with the following skills:

- Resiliency skills, which will help participants acquire social proficiency and increase academic competency, cultivate critical thinking and help develop future framing tips;
- College readiness skills, which will help participants formulate reachable short and long-term goals and motivate confidence when dealing with adversity; and
- Employability skills, which will show and familiarize participants with proper workplace etiquette and to be able to analyze situations as well as reason those situations in an effective manner.

Those interested in signing up for the training may fill out registration forms found at the ABE office at NMC's Building T. Participants may also register on the day training, but it is on a first-come, first-served basis as space is limited. Training will start at 9am through 1pm. All participants will receive a certificate o f completion of the training. In addition, lunch will be provided to participants.

For more information, contact the ABE Office at 234-5498 Ext. 1722 or email Raymond Muña at raymondm@nmcnet.edu or Velma Mafnas at velmam@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Ex-Tinian detective allegedly sexually abused girl

A former Tinian police detective was arrested on Friday on charges that he sexually abused a 14-year-old girl.

Sources said police served the arrest warrant on the former police detective on charges of sexual abuse of a minor.

Saipan Tribune decided for the meantime to withhold the suspect's identity until he is taken to a court hearing.

Sources said it was Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho who issued the arrest warrant.

Sources said that Camacho imposed a $100,000 cash bail for the defendant's temporary release.

The defendant is expected to be taken to court today, Tuesday, for his initial appearance.

Allegedly, the former detective confessed to a person about the incident, but claimed that the charges will not prosper in court as the allegations were based on hearsay.

No other details of the case were available yet as of press time yesterday. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Finally, Obama breaks his silence on drones

By PETER W. SINGER
Los Angeles Times

Peter W. Singer is director of the Center for 21st Century and Intelligence at the Brookings Institution. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times

Over the last four years, there has been a strange irony. One of the greatest speakers of our era has largely kept silent about one of the signature aspects of his presidency.

Under President Obama's leadership, U.S. civilian intelligence agencies have carried out a series of not-so-covert operations in so-called secret wars that have reached a huge scale. There have been nearly 400 drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen since 2008, in periods of activity that have ebbed and flowed dependent on everything from the availability of intelligence to local political tides.

But the long-term nature and growth in scale of the "drone wars" campaign made targeted killings a key feature of the administration's foreign policy, both in its internal approach to counter-terrorism and external perceptions of America. The advantages were clear to an administration that throughout this period faced a daily drumbeat of terrorism threats. Targeted killings by drones offered new means for action in ways that were more accurate, more proportionate and less risky to American lives than previous alternatives. They have repeatedly been used in successful operations that eliminated key terrorist leaders.

However, the short-term benefits came with long-term questions. As these operations increasingly were leaked to the media, they grew more and more controversial, whether from concern over civilian casualties, disputes over the appropriate role of the CIA versus the military in what had evolved into a massive air war campaign, Congress' sense that it was the victim of an executive branch end run or broader worry about the danger to constitutional powers.

As this played out, the president's absence from the debate became more and more telling. Yes, there were a couple of speeches by presidential aides finally acknowledging the use of such technology, quick mentions on late-night talk shows and even presidential jokes about drone strikes. But the administration's case in the public debate remained disjointed, tentative and, as the controversy surrounding John Brennan's confirmation hearings as CIA director illustrated, far from strategic or satisfactory. The time was long overdue for the true stamp of presidential voice and authority on the topic to be heard.

That is what makes the president's speech Thursday at National Defense University so important, and simultaneously so challenging for him. He has to try to strike a balance between arguing that terrorism threats will remain with us for the long term, as recent events in Boston and London would illustrate, but that the structures we gradually built up in response, from the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the drone campaign, cannot remain with us in their ad hoc manner for the long term.

Beyond all the internal policy questions—such as what the CIA should control versus what the Pentagon controls—he has a broader task. He must lay out the overdue case for regularizing, so to speak, our counter-terrorism strategy itself, from the means to the ends. This will require touching on thorny issues such as how to bring more transparency to the ugly task of a targeted killings campaign, how to create more interaction with Congress—which both wants and avoids oversight—and, finally, how to find a path out of the

See DRONES on Next Page

Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Olongapo, Jeju-Do, Tinian, Saipan, and Pagan

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

What do the first five on our title list have in common? All in the western Pacific side of Asia, they have stored A-bomb materials in their premises at one time or another. They, and many other ports and bases around the world, have done so, often against their stated policies, and with the consent of only a few.

One of Lazarus Salii's insistence in Palau's independence from the UN-Trust Territory of the Pacific was a policy to make it a nuclear-free area, barring nuclear-powered naval presence in the area. He would become the country's third president, reportedly committing suicide over bribery charges. (The first President was assassinated.)

Iwo Jima is one of eight villages of Tokyo, uninhabited by a civilian population though a Japanese airbase is on island. The U.S. Navy had used it to store nuclear bomb material.

We all know of Okinawa where the U.S. was legally an inch away from Japan's prohibition of nuclear materials in its territories. Okinawa was technically under U.S. occupation for a long while before it was returned to Japan. The current Senkaku Islands' conflict (*Diao Yu* in *Zhongguo*) was identified with the Ryukyus but geographically a part of Taiwan. We ceded the islands to Japan rather than to Taiwan where they would normally belong.

It took *force majeure* from lahar-spewing Mt. Pinatubo to close out Subic Bay naval facilities in Olongapo, home to the U.S. Seventh Fleet, and neighboring Clark U.S. Air Force base that, along with Anderson in Guam, sent Agent Orange to IndoChina during the region's war in the '70s.

The U.S. military kept installations in Northern Luzon where I was born, and supported efforts to the develop southwest Mindanao to contain resurgent Islam already resident in the area; also positioning interests on the discovered oil wealth underneath South China Sea that might extend into Sulu. We conducted Peace Corps training in the area in the '80s, a fateful one for me since it apparently disqualified my participation in any further training.

Jeju-Do island of South Korea is building a huge naval facility that will support the preeminent U.S. military command in the region, and will be key to Obama's military strategy of "pivot turn," a move of military material and personnel to contain China in the Western Pacific.

I spent two months in Suwon in '72 elbowing with Christian church folk to deal with the issue of what it meant to be a real religious servant force, rather than be the privileged *muksa nim* just slightly below royalty. When it was time to put our money where our mouths' were, we thought on focusing on a community in Jeju.

In a series of programmed community meetings, we embarked in enabling local communities to meet their own requirements just about the time strongman Park Chung Hee (father of the current SoKor President) launched the *Saemuel Undong* (local community mobilization movement). My younger sister in Manila was then a newly minted nurse, so I volunteered her services to the effort. Other than learning how to belch heartily after a meal in Hangguel (the *bulgoggi* and *kimchee* can air out the system), and singing a popular tune whose lyrics were rewritten to declare one's *Saranghae* to the village of *Kwanyung Il,* I think we pretty much left President Park to his own devices.

Jeju in South Korea's history was one of neglect due to a post-WWII incident until the island presented itself as a possible tropical destination for Korean and Japanese tourists, now billed as an international island. Its new naval facility will be relatively equidistant to Vladivostok, Tokyo, Taipei, HK, and Beijing. The locals are now in active protest over the sleight-of-hand they experienced in the landing of a foreign naval base in their neighborhood.

MIT Noam Chomsky's description of South Korea's history wrote: "When U.S. forces entered Korea in 1945, they dispersed the local popular government, consisting primarily of antifascists who resisted the Japanese, and inaugurated a brutal repression, using Japanese fascist police and Koreans who had collaborated with them during the Japanese occupation. About 100,000 people were murdered in South Korea prior to what we call the Korean War, including 30,000 to 40,000 killed during the suppression of a peasant revolt in one small region, Cheju Island." The last is the Jeju-do of my acquaintance. Chomsky's Korean fascists would include the 18-year rule of General Park, a one-time member of the Japan Imperial Army elite Kwantung Army force of Manchuria.

Tinian cradled the only two nuclear bombs ever exploded over inhabited territory. We know of the CIA clandestine operations on Saipan in support of Chinese and Tibetan insurgents (check with Bill Stewart for more info), and now, Pagan is being proposed as a venue for military purposes.

(NMDs are understandably in a tizzy. We shall pick this one up in a subsequent reflection.)

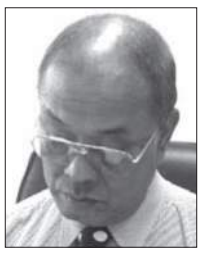
For now, we should not wonder why certain responsible segments of American society think the War on Terror was a misnomer. We have met the enemy, they say. It is US! To many parts of the world, we constitute organized and effective uniformed terrorism.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Gi Halom Guafen Botkan

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Iestau ekonomia guine parehu yan milag' guafen botkan ni tat ti hafa' apu gigon sineñgge. Ti ta sesiente lau siempre u kahulu 'an monhayan halotge-gue'.

Ti mapot este mali'e gi dañkulu na maribahan fondu ni humahalom gi kahan iya Marianas na tiempu. Mampos bahu mientras mañgakanta i man-sabiu "Tres Na Bachet Cha'ka".

I maseñala na rinikohe para otru sakan ennau i $123 miyon pesus. Na' suha 80 pot sientu ginen totat para sueddon empleau. I sesebla kase ennau $40 miyon pesus. I dibin Fondun man-ritirau mas ke $375 miyon pesus fuera ke dibi pa'gu. Hinegse este ni operasion gobietnamentu gi halom fache' dibi—gastu sin fiñkas. Puru mandañkulu na "D" pa'gu suette-ta.

Este na hogsu' dibi hana' litiku kinalamten gobietnamentu. Mas didog i problema sa' tai adelantu i industrian praibet. Faktu na lamegai humuchum pettan niha. Estague' mina' mas menos kontribusion tax. I tax yan apas kandet umafuetsas machum pottan bisnis siha.

Taya' satton na animu para uma'atan haf" na mampos i kinalamten ekonomia destrosiau. Gi hilu' este na diskuidu, sige mana pinalo'pu' mas tax i bisnis siha. De dios mihu na mañan malamaña i man-tai pisu siha na areglu. Magahet na u guaha mas rinikohen tax pat atlibes na resutta ke haf' ma-intended?

Don't worry, be happy...

Kinalamten miserable mas didog gi megai na familia guine. Mientras tantos hu konsidedera haf" planun niha i man-sabiun I Deni para uma-adelanta linala' publiku.

'An malofan hau gi hegsu' I Deni dispues de taloa'ne, siempre un' huñgog mañgakanta parehu ramas gobietnu "Don't worry… be happy…" Tat ti nina' tutuhu' lago'ña ni man-disintunau niha. Kontodu kukunitus man-linagnos gi madog niha. Tai bali i kompas gi san-mena.

Era, mampos didog i kimason linala' miserable gi señgsoñg siha ya ma-e'eñgulu' haf" na atte mauleg. Man-ginacha' induktu i los prohimus.

Ma-embrasa huegun muron gi makatkulan moneda. Esta mas ke sientu biahe masuma gi hilu' guinife na siempre u guaha mas salape' gi hilu' este na mañan muron. Unu yan unu, dos; ni ñgai'an na u tres. Haf" mohon?

Man-nahlalañg na asuntu

Un' amiguhu hagas inaligau ni bañku para u inamot ni kareta. Uttimoña, guahu sumusugun i tumobet 'nai mafaisen-yu' ni yabe. Ai, poduñg papaghu. Mauleg na gai konsiderasion i tautau bañku ya hana' maudai-yu' para iya hame.

■■■

Ilegña i amiguhu Buddy Magoo na para hafa bai' chathinassu pot pagamientun man-ritirau sa' esta mapoluye kebleña para otru sakan.

Mauleg na intension lau debi u espiha i gobietnu ya u apase i programa sa' madidibi $375 miyon pesus. Loka'ña esta i dibi ke hegsu' I Deni'. De dios mihu na tinilaika deste "better times" ni mana' sulun guatu gi aplacha' na fache' "let it be".

■■■

Sige mana' fan para (fire) todu man-ma'gas depattamientu yan ahensia ni man-masoda' "republican" gi ha'en niha. Guaha 'nos kuantos man-masustene. Era siha este na tropa i bumende korason yan anten niha guatu gi tendan covenant.

I masusede mas inipi' yan hana' lebok i pisun politika gi entalu' republican, independent republican yan covenant. Hombre, "I don't born yesterday, lai!" Bes enkuando, tinaka' apmam na tiempu para esta ke u fan adanche i kabayeros siha ginen pisu ni maputa' tres.

■■■

Kada pañgpañg ti kilisyanu na napu umadiñgan-yu' yan un' menhalom yan tomtum na amku'. Sessu ha repite na todu che'chu' tautau siempre u biragues' tatte manu 'nai ha tutuhongue'. Hagu para un' pula' haf" sustansian biradaña. 'An mauleg hinanauña, u mauleg lokue' finatoña tatte.

■■■

Mientras sige hit diariu gi hinanau-ta, hu e'ekuñgog haf" na buruka guaha gi taduñg na tasin Marianas gi sanhaya na bandan tasi. Hu rikononose sa' sessu ha totpe gi hinasoghu un' dañkulun linau yan hinalom tasi ginen haya. Makat na kontrariu sa' 100 pe hulu', 200 miyas tatte ya malalagu ennau na napu 500 miyas gi ora. Tat ti u prensa gi hinalom yan hiniyoñgña. Man-preparau hit?

■■■

Ilegña un' amiguhu na mauleg bai' ke falagu para gobietnu. Hu ñañgon na makat. Ha faisenyu haf" minakatña. Ileghu, "Mampos chagu' i hegsu' I Deni".

Ai hombre 'an hu hala i eskoban sanhiyuñg guaha 'nai ha kena' salakumba'yu'. Ti bai' mayogua sasalaguan pot tai eskamayu' gobietnu.

Ga'oghu i parehu plaset yan i mayotmente gi señgsoñg siha. Parehu pinegan apaga' ya libianu mas inadiñgan asuntan todus. Po'lu dialu!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What can 'we' get out of the Pagan military buildup?

To our leaders, particularly, all former and current residents of the Northern Islands: Most of the comments that came up in regard to the proposal of the U.S. Department of Defense to conduct military training on the island of Pagan expressed their strong opposition to the plan for different reasons; some legitimate while some were only shooting blanks.

Thus, not to beat around the bush on this very important issue that could improve the livelihood of the neglected residents of the Northern Islands, I wish to register my YES (flashing neon-light) vote on this topic, which could create countless development opportunities for the entire Northern Islands. That is, if our trusted leaders make some smart and right assessments.

The island of Pagan is our ace in hand. The richest organization in the world has a crucial interest to use Pagan for future military training.

Perhaps, to help you make your decision, whether to support or not support this proposal, I would like to share a little of my experience and what I have learned of the daily struggles that the Northern Islanders had to endure to survive with meager support coming from the administration or the central government on Saipan.

After the war, the Mariana Islands consisting of Rota, Aguiguan (Goat Island), Tinian, Saipan and all islands north of Saipan, also referred to as Northern Islands, were placed under the care of the U.S. Naval Administration until June 1962.

The Trust Territory government came and took over control and the administration of the Mariana Islands from the U.S. Naval Administration in July 1962. But not before schools, dispensaries, churches, and typhoon shelters were built on every island in the north as the population grew and exceeded 500 men, women and children.

There were field trips every three months, sometimes transporting more than 100 passengers consisting of returning residents and tourists and bringing a variety of goodies from Saipan to trade with the Northern Islanders for coconut crabs, fruit bats, dried and salted meat and fish, seashells, and more.

Trading in the Northern Islands at the time was very lucrative. Everyone worked independently selling dried copra products to a copra trading company. To supplement their copra sales, Northern Islanders turned to farming, fishing, and trading.

The Northern Islands were bustling with activities until the Trust Territory government terminated its administration to the newly formed CNMI government in 1976.

During 40 years under the control and direction of the CNMI government, the field trip service to the Northern Islands, which used to be scheduled once every three months, suffered a major setback and trickled down to once every four to six months, and at times to once a year.eld trips

The population followed and nose-dived to less than 10 residents (latest unofficial count), with no women and children.

Clearly, the CNMI government has failed big time to develop and help the destitute residents of the Northern Islands. Are we going to wait around for another 40 years and cross our fingers for an opportunity to roll over us to wake us from our deep slumber? Wake up! The opportunity is within our grasp, just staring us in the face.

It is very clear that the Department of Defense is very much interested in the island of Pagan being used as a military training site. Let us therefore examine what opportunities could be made available to the residents of Pagan and the other islands in the Northern Mariana as well, should the military be given the green light to proceed with its plans.

The following are but some essential matters that could be negotiated with the Department of Defense:

1. Provide field trip transportation to the Northern Islands every two or three months.
2. Repair and maintain the docking area on Pagan.
3. Repair and maintain the airfield on Pagan.
4. Repair and maintain roads on Pagan and Agrigan.
5. Build and maintain water catchments on Pagan, Agrigan and Alamagan
6. Build and maintain multi-structures for typhoon shelters and dispensaries on Pagan, Agrigan, and Alamagan.
7. Help eradicate monitor lizards from the Northern Islands. These invasive species of lizard with no natural predator will kill off the wildlife in the Northern Islands if left unchecked.

Perhaps this is also our only chance to bring another significant matter to the attention of our leaders that should be included in their negotiations.

Farallon De Mendenilla is presently being used by the military for live bombing practice. This arrangement should be renegotiated to move the bomb training site to Farallon de Pajaros, also known as Uracas.

Uracas, at the northernmost tip of the Mariana Islands chain, is also referred to as the candlelight of the Mariana Islands for its constant volcanic activity every 15 years or so. This occurrence has made Uracas uninhabitable…even the birds stay away.

I presume that it would be more sensible moving the bomb target sites to Uracas, where no human lives or wildlife would be disturbed and negotiated and for the return of FDM to our people for its potential financial opportunity to our fishing industry.

Farallon de Mendenilla is sitting on miles of diveable and fishable coral reefs, possibly the richest coral reefs in the Mariana Islands chain. The reef is teeming with every imaginable species of underwater wildlife that's just waiting to be filmed, toured, or harvested.

This should be a great fishing ground and a big opportunity for our local fishermen to venture into and increase their income.

However, first, all unexploded bombs on land and on the coral reef around the island of FDM must be located and cleared, then buoys should be strategically placed at good fishing locations for boats to anchor.

Till then, I would place all my cards on the table and proceed with the negotiations, but deal from the heart with all honesty and in clear conscience, for favorable results usually follow.

David "Taulaamwar" K. Peter
(Born on Asuncion)
Chalan LauLau, Saipan

DRONES

From Page 10

Gitmo conundrum.

Beginning this kind of discussion has been described by some as just a way to change the topic in the midst of other would-be scandals dominating the news cycle. But let's be crystal clear: The president is making a big bet by speaking out on issues on which he still enjoys fairly broad public support.

The reason to take this bet is that the speech offers enormous advantages over the alternative of remaining silent. Though it may or may not assuage the genuine concerns at home about the drone campaign, the very act is hugely important inside government. Only the president can operate above the interagency disputes, and his vision will set the terms of internal policy development across multiple agencies (why those staff speeches and confirmation hearings never could substitute for his voice).

In turn, the public side of the speech matters in a manner beyond any blip in domestic poll numbers. Here again, only the president can truly stake out America's vision in a way the world notices. If well played, the speech might even be the foundation for future international norms that need to be set in the post-9/11, post-Osama bin Laden world. This is all the more important as our technologies proliferate and other nations, such as Russia, China and Iran, may seek to follow (or misuse) our precedents in drone strikes and targeted killings.

The issues at play are not just about which agency gets to do what and when to tell whom on Capitol Hill, but also how the United States might build a global coalition of the like-minded on the future of counter-terrorism.

In short, sometimes a speech is more than just a speech. By finally speaking out on some of the key issues that have grown to define his place in foreign policy history, Obama has his chance, finally, to set the terms of the debate and steer it toward more positive ends.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

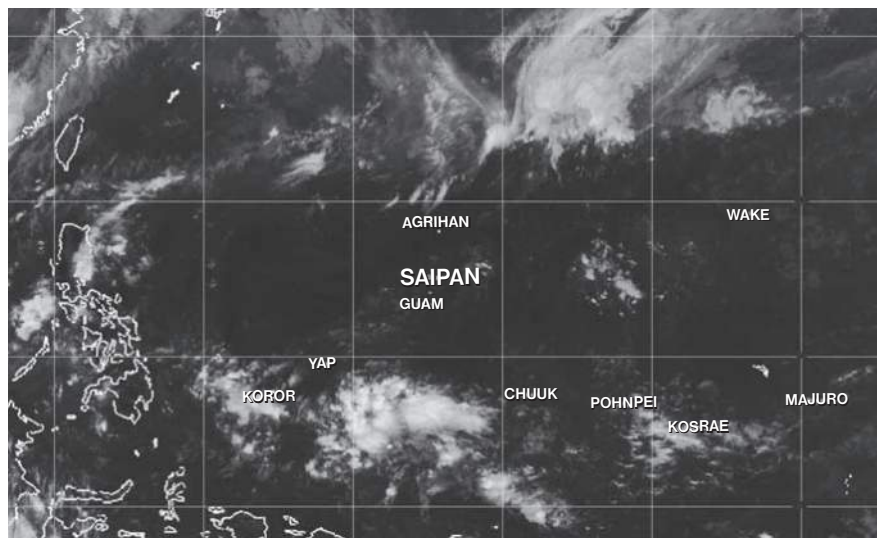
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼81
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼75
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲91	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲85	▼60
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲84	▼80
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼73
London	Showers	▲62	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼61
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼82
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲83	▼77
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼61
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲76	▼71
Paris	Showers	▲59	▼47
Pusan	Windy	▲74	▼65
Rome	Sunny	▲65	▼55
Salem	Showers	▲61	▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼52
Seoul	Showers	▲69	▼59
Tokyo	Showers	▲72	▼69
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲81	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 27, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak front extends southwestward from northeast of Wake Island through 25N170E to a low pressure system centered west of Minami Tori Shima at 24N149E then continues westward to beyond 130E at 25N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near and south of front or north of a line from 25N170E to 20N142E to 23N135E to 21N130E. Weak convergence extends eastward from west of Koror to Chuuk. A surface trough embedded in the convergence zone near Koror is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Koror between 3N and 10N from 130E to 136E. A second trough is generating similar weather from southeast of Yap to southwest of Chuuk within 225 miles of a line from 6N137E to 4N148E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk between the equator and 2N from 148E to 154E and southeast of Pohnpei to near Kosrae between 2N and 6N from 159E to 168E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
9:56 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:20 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:51 PM	8:40 AM
Wednesday	10:43 PM	9:42 AM
Thursday	11:31 PM	10:41 AM
Friday		11:38 AM
Saturday	12:16 AM	12:32 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN

XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Germany: Merkel vows to avoid trade war with China

BERLIN (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Sunday she would use her country's economic clout to prevent the European Union from imposing punitive tariffs on some Chinese products to avoid a trade war.

Germany will push for "very intense talks" between the EU and China to seek a negotiated solution as swiftly as possible, the leader of Europe's biggest economy told visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

The EU Commission, the 27-nation bloc's executive arm, accuses China of pricing its solar panels and some mobile telecom devices too cheaply, thereby flooding the European market, distorting competition and hurting European manufacturers. Brussels has therefore proposed imposing an average 47 percent special duty on Chinese solar panels, and it is continuing to look into the telecommunication sector.

Li sharply criticized the EU's approach, saying through a translator that "it sends a wrong signal because we want to fight protectionism together."

"We strongly oppose this decision," he insisted, referring to the proposed solar panel tariffs. "We hope that the EU won't use protectionist trade measures for such small a cause," he said.

The EU, the world's largest economy, is China's second-biggest business partner after the U.S., with a trade volume of about 430 billion euros in 2012. The solar panel exports stand for about 7 percent of China's total exports to the EU.

The EU Commission is expected to make a decision on the anti-dumping investigation after consulting all interested parties by the end of the year.

"Germany will work for this to be resolved as quickly as possible because we don't believe (tariffs) would help us very much," said Merkel. "And that's why we should very intensely use the next six months, and Germany will do everything to ensure that the talks will really advance," she added.

Li thanked Merkel, adding that China also hopes that talks between Beijing and Brussels will be able to avoid a trade standoff and yield "an amicable solution."

Germany was the only stop in an EU member nation on Li's inaugural trip abroad, in a sign that China seeks Berlin's clout to influence the EU's at times cumbersome decision making progress. Li, who took office in March, at one point even said during the news conference with Merkel that he was aware that German cannot replace the EU Commission.

China is the world's largest producer of solar panels, exporting more than half of its output to Europe, totaling 21 billion euros in 2011.

The global solar panel market is suffering from overcapacity, which has led to stiff competition that has forced several European manufacturers out of business.

Still, Germany's powerful industrial lobby groups oppose the discussed EU anti-dumping measures against China because they fear an escalating trade war that would dent the countries' buoying business ties.

Li said the EU's decision wouldn't serve its interests and would harm China and others. "It will put the (solar) sector's development in Europe in danger, harm the interest of the European companies, the European consumers and the European industry," he said.

China rejects the EU's price-dumping allegations, but the problem is no novelty for Beijing. The U.S. last year imposed punitive tariffs on solar panel imports after finding that China's government was subsidizing companies that were flooding the U.S. market.

AP

German Chancellor Angela Merkel left, and China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang, right, share a laugh after Li Keqiang signed the guest book on his arrival for a dinner at the German government's Meseberg Palace in Meseberg some 60 km north of Berlin on Sunday, May 26, 2013

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan's Nikkei dives as yen gains strength

BANGKOK (AP)—Japan's stock market dived Monday after the yen reversed some of its recent fall against the U.S. dollar. Stocks elsewhere in Asia were mixed as investors tried to sort out conflicting indicators about the health of the global economy. The Nikkei 225 shed 2.6 percent to 14,238.72, after its stalwart export sector was hit with wide-ranging losses. The benchmark in Tokyo has been on a tear, rising 36 percent since the beginning of the year. The yen's steady fall against other major currencies has been a major market propellant but it reversed some of that decline Monday after reaching 103 to the dollar last week.

Automaker Tesla takes fight to North Carolina

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Tesla Motors is fighting a bill in North Carolina that would effectively ban the company from selling its electric cars in the state, pitting it against auto dealers who say the car maker has an unfair advantage selling directly to consumers online. It's the latest such battle for California-based Tesla, which like other car manufacturers must navigate a patchwork of state laws dictating how its vehicles can be sold. Nearly all states—48—require manufacturers to sell their vehicles through dealerships to ensure the companies don't undercut their own network of franchised dealers, according to the National Automobile Dealers Association.

Reports: Kuwait oil minister resigns

KUWAIT CITY (AP)—Kuwait media say the Gulf nation's oil minister has resigned after criticism of a $2.2 billion compensation payment over a collapsed business deal. There was no immediate official comment Sunday on the reported resignation of Hani Hussein, but he has faced calls to be questioned in parliament over the payment to Dow Chemical Co. Some lawmakers have demanded an investigation into the settlement this month with Dow. The payment was for the 2008 withdrawal of Kuwait's state-run petrochemical company from a planned plastics joint venture.

NY's tax-free business plan is bold but uncertain

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Through much of the last century, New York built America's locomotives, automobile parts, steel girders and more through three shifts a day. Today, the Empire State is next to last on CEOs' list of states to set up shop.

The decline came over more than four decades of economic erosion for much of the state outside New York City's nearly unshakable economy. The state played a high-stakes game of offering tax breaks, but it yielded more political scandal than economic turnaround.

Now, Gov. Andrew Cuomo wants to go all in.

He's proposing a new way to lure high-tech companies and entrepreneurs by waiving all business and property taxes and even state income taxes for all their employees for up to 10 years if they move to New York and partner with a college campus.

As the governor touts the tax-free pitch as a major upstate economic development plan, policy experts say it's a unique approach but warn it could backfire and actually hamstring the state's economy. Either way, other states are watching closely.

"This is exactly the kind of thinking that makes New York score so poorly in our tax index," said Scott Drenkard, an economist with the Washington, D.C.-based Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan, national tax research association. "The bread and butter of a good tax policy is its broad-based taxes. That means you don't have giveaways to certain businesses. Instead, you operate on a level playing field."

Cuomo spent much of last week barnstorming around the state to pitch his biggest and most aggressive attempt to turn around what for decades has been dubbed the "upstate problem:" young New Yorkers fleeing for jobs elsewhere. Cuomo said his proposal will supercharge job creation.

But his plan also raised broad concerns. Academics fear a commercialization of higher education, while business leaders say the proposal makes second-class citizens out of the businesses that stuck around and paid taxes through hard times.

Protesters across globe rally against Monsanto

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Protesters rallied in dozens of cities Saturday as part of a global protest against seed giant Monsanto and the genetically modified food it produces, organizers said.

Organizers said "March Against Monsanto" protests were held in 52 countries and 436 cities, including Los Angeles where demonstrators waved signs that read "Real Food 4 Real People" and "Label GMOs, It's Our Right to Know."

Genetically modified plants are grown from seeds that are engineered to resist insecticides and herbicides, add nutritional benefits or otherwise improve crop yields and increase the global food supply.

Most corn, soybean and cotton crops grown in the United States today have been genetically modified. But critics say genetically modified organisms can lead to serious health conditions and harm the environment. The use of GMOs has been a growing issue of contention in recent years, with health advocates pushing for mandatory labeling of genetically modified products even though the federal government and many scientists say the technology is safe.

The `March Against Monsanto' movement began just a few months ago, when founder and organizer Tami Canal created a Facebook page on Feb. 28 calling for a rally against the company's practices.

"If I had gotten 3,000 people to join me, I would have considered that a success," she said Saturday. Instead, she said an "incredible" number of people responded to her message and turned out to rally.

"It was empowering and inspiring to see so many people, from different walks of life, put aside their differences and come together today," Canal said. The group plans to harness the success of the event to continue its anti-GMO cause.

"We will continue until Monsanto complies with consumer demand. They are poisoning our children, poisoning our planet," she said. "If we don't act, who's going to?"

Nation

Honoring veterans as monuments decay, funds dry up

By ANITA HOFSCHNEIDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

This May 23, 2013 photo shows the gate to the Waikiki Natatorium in Honolulu. A few glance curiously at the crumbling Waikiki Natatorium, a salt water pool built in 1927 as a memorial to the 10,000 soldiers from Hawaii who served in World War I.

HONOLULU (AP)—On the shoreline of Hawaii's most famous beach, a decaying structure attracts little attention from wandering tourists.

A few glance curiously at the crumbling Waikiki Natatorium, a salt water pool built in 1927 as a memorial to the 10,000 soldiers from Hawaii who served in World War I. But the monument's walls are caked with salt and rust, and passers-by are quickly diverted by the lure of sand and waves.

The faded structure has been closed to the public for decades, the object of seemingly endless debate over whether it should be demolished or restored to its former glory. The latest plan is to replace it with a beach, more practical for the state's lucrative tourism industry - and millions of dollars cheaper, according to state and local officials. They say a full restoration could cost nearly $70 million.

The corroding monument has challenged the community to maneuver a delicate question: How do we honor those who have served when memorials deteriorate and finances are tight?

Similar debates have been playing out across the nation.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation waged a 2 1/2-year fight to restore the aging Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., when some people proposed replacing it. Far less disagreement surrounded a decision to update the War Memorial Opera House in San Francisco after a powerful earthquake in 1989.

In Greensboro, N.C., residents have been grappling with what to do with the city's own decaying tribute to the soldiers of World War I.

The Greensboro World War Memorial Stadium hosted minor league baseball for decades and even served as a location for notable sports films such as "Leatherheads" and "Bull Durham."

Yet, despite continued use by kids and college-level athletes, the structure is falling into disrepair.

The historic pebbled facade is falling off, and some of the bleachers are blocked off because of crumbling concrete, said David Wharton, a Greensboro resident who is fighting as a member of his neighborhood association to restore the structure.

It's been a losing battle. The city rejected two referendums to fund renovations and chose to build a new stadium for minor league baseball instead of fixing up the old one.

As a classics professor at University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Wharton has a soft spot for historic places. But he recognizes there are many other priorities competing for the millions of dollars it would take to restore the stadium.

A city group is exploring different ways to use the space, and preservation advocates hope the monument can be saved even if that means changing the stadium's purpose.

Obama: Govt with Oklahoma 'every step' of the way

MOORE, Okla. (AP)—President Barack Obama visited tornado-devastated Moore, Okla., Sunday, consoling people staggered by the loss of life and property and promising that the government will be behind them "every step of the way."

"I'm just a messenger here," the president said, saying "folks are behind you" across America. He offered moral and monetary support in the wake of the monstrous EF5 tornado that killed 24 people, including 10 children, last Monday afternoon.

Standing with Gov. Mary Fallin and other state and federal officials, Obama noted a substantial rebuilding job ahead and said that "our hearts go out to you."

"This is a strong community with strong character. There's no doubt they will bounce back," he said. "But they need help."

The White House said the Federal Emergency Management Agency has already provided $57 million in rebates and incentives to help build about 12,000 storm shelters in Oklahoma. "These storm shelters can be the difference between life and death," presidential spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters accompanying Obama to Oklahoma on Air Force One.

For Obama, Sunday's visit had an all-too-familiar ring.

Only five months into his second term, he has traveled to the northeast to console people in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombing, and visited Connecticut and Arizona to comfort people traumatized by shooting rampages. He also has undertaken his consoler-in-chief role at the site of plant explosions and mine disasters, not to mention a series of natural disasters including Joplin, Mo., and the Jersey Shore, which was heavily damaged by Superstorm Sandy last year.

Once on the ground, Obama urged the American people to make contributions, saying the damage was "pretty hard to comprehend."

Shortly after his arrival on a partly cloudy day, Obama rode past grassy fields strewn with scattered debris, witnessing devastation so awesome that it appeared as if garbage had literally rained from the sky. His first stop was the demolished site of the Plaza Towers Elementary School, where seven students were killed when the tornado turned the one-story building into a heap of bricks, broken concrete and twisted metal.

"I know this is tough," he told superintendent Susie Pierce as he gripped her hand. As he walked, the demolished school was on his left and on his right, homes as far as the eye could see were reduced to piles of rubble. Vehicles were turned upside down and toys like a pink doll carriage and children's books were strewn with furniture and ripped out wall insulation.

Temporary fix set for crumpled I-5 bridge in Wash.

SEATTLE (AP)—Washington state plans to install within weeks a temporary fix for an interstate highway bridge that crumpled after being hit by a truck, tossing cars and people into a chilly river but causing only minor injuries.

Gov. Jay Inslee announced Sunday that the temporary spans for the Interstate 5 bridge will be installed across the Skagit River by around mid-June, if plans go well.

Barges with equipment to remove the mangled bridge and cars in the water arrived at the site and work was expected to start during the early hours Monday, the state Department of Transportation said.

Sunday's announcement came as investigators used 3D laser scans to study what remained of the collapsed bridge.

It also came a day after the chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board called Thursday night's collapse a wake-up call to the state of safety of the nation's infrastructure.

The Washington state collapse, caused by the truck carrying an oversize load, fractured one of the major trade and travel corridors on the West Coast. The interstate connects Washington state with Canada, which is about an hour north of Mount Vernon, where the bridge buckled.

After the collapse, semi-trucks, travel buses and cars clogged local bridges as traffic was diverted through the small cities around the bridge. But overall, traffic was flowing as well as expected during the holiday weekend.

"We're going to get this project done as fast as humanly possible," Inslee, a Democrat, said Sunday. "There are no more important issue right now to the economy of the state of Washington than getting this bridge up and running."

Inslee said he hopes the temporary spans, each with two lanes for northbound and southbound traffic, will be finished in about three weeks' time. The spans will be pre-built and trucked to Mount Vernon.

The state plan also calls for a permanent span to be built and competed by autumn, officials said.

Officials say there are remaining inspections to the spans left standing to make sure they are safe to use.

The federal government is expected to cover 100 percent of the costs of the temporary bridge and 90 percent the replacement, said state Transportation Secretary Lynn Peterson.

The temporary span would be able to carry regular-sized cargos as well as cars. The speed limit would be lower than the 60 miles per hour allowed previously.

The three people were thrown in the water by the crash and survived with non-life threatening injuries.

Searchers find body of teen missing in Texas flood

SCHERTZ, Texas (AP)—Search teams on Sunday found the body of teenager who was swept away by floodwaters as he tried to swim across a swollen creek near San Antonio, authorities said.

Avron Adams, 18, of Schertz, and a friend got caught Saturday in the swift waters of Cibolo Creek after about half a dozen friends swam across. One friend held onto a tree branch and got out, but Adams did not, officials said.

David Harris, a spokesman for Schertz, said about 5:45 p.m. searchers located Adams' body near the water's edge. Harris said Adams' family has been notified.

"The body was found near where the search and rescue dogs had identified a scent," Harris said.

Earlier Sunday, Adams' father said he was holding out hope.

"We're hopeful, but at this point, you just don't know," his father, Kenneth Adams, told The Associated Press as his wife stood nearby. "It's very hard. We're just keeping the faith."

The search effort included helicopters, divers and rescue teams in inflatable boats.

The usually dry creek in Schertz, northeast of San Antonio, had dropped about 10 feet since Saturday. Other rivers in the San Antonio area and surrounding counties continued to drop after peaking above the flood stage, but flood warnings remained in effect Sunday. The National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch for seven counties until 6 p.m. Sunday, saying thunderstorms could produce heavy rainfall.

Two women died Saturday after being swept away by floodwaters, some as high as 10 feet on some roads. One who was trapped in her car climbed to the roof before being swept away, and her body was found against a fence, said San Antonio Fire Department spokesman Christian Bove. Emergency officials also recovered the body of a woman in her 60s, whose car was carried away by water as firefighters were trying to rescue her. Authorities did not immediately identify the women who died.

On Sunday, about 20 people were at a shelter set up by the American Red Cross, including some whose apartment complex roof caved in under the weight of the heavy rainfall.

Roxanne DeLeon arrived there Sunday with her 18-month-old son, 6-year-old daughter, 15-year-old daughter and husband, a day after escaping through waist-deep water in their rented home with nothing but what they were wearing, her purse and some diapers. They didn't even have time to grab shoes.

Asia

Japanese politician apologizes for sex comment

TOKYO (AP)—An outspoken Japanese politician apologized Monday for saying U.S. troops should patronize adult entertainment businesses as a way to reduce sex crimes, but defended another inflammatory remark about Japan's use of sex slaves before and during World War II.

Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto, who is also the co-head of an emerging nationalistic party, said his remarks two weeks ago rose from a "sense of crisis" about cases of sexual assaults by U.S. military personnel on Japanese civilians in Okinawa, where a large number of U.S. troops are based under a bilateral security treaty.

"I understand that my remark could be construed as an insult to the U.S. forces and to the American people" and was inappropriate, he said at a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Tokyo. "I retract this remark and express an apology."

Hashimoto had created an uproar with comments to journalists two weeks ago about Japan's modern and wartime sexual services. They added to recent anger in neighboring countries that suffered from Japan's wartime aggression and have complained about the lack of atonement for atrocities committed during that time.

AP
Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto listens to a reporter's question during a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo Monday, May 27, 2013.

Hashimoto said on May 13 that on a recent visit to the southern island of Okinawa, he suggested to the U.S. commander there that the troops there "to make better use" of the legal sex industry. "If you don't make use of those places you cannot control the sexual energy of those tough guys," he said.

He also said that Japan's wartime practice of forcing women from across Asia but mostly from South Korea and China to work in front-line brothels was necessary to maintain discipline and provide relaxation for soldiers.

He didn't apologize for those comments Monday, and insisted that Japan's wartime government did not systematically force girls and women into prostitution.

"If only Japan is blamed because of the widely held view that the state authority of Japan was intentionally involved in the abduction and trafficking of women, I will have to inform you that this view is incorrect," he said.

Hashimoto also urged the government to clarify Japan's landmark apology in a 1993 statement by then-Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, and clearly state that Japan's government did not systematically force women into prostitution for its wartime military. Hashimoto has previously supported the view by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government denying official proof of coercion but open to further investigation.

Before taking office in December Abe had advocated revising the Kono statement, but has said recently he stands by that statement and won't revise it.

He said the murkiness of the Kono statement has contributed to longstanding disputes between Japan and South Korea. "We should bring an end to irrational debate."

Hashimoto did call the use of so-called comfort women an "inexcusable act that violated the dignity and human rights of the women, in which large numbers of Korean and Japanese were included."

Still, he claimed he had been quoted out of context to say that he personally believed that the use the system was necessary. He was trying to say that armed forces of nations around the world "seem to have needed women" in past wars and also violated women's human rights during wartime.

Singling out Japan was wrong, as this issue also existed in the armed forces of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the former Soviet Union during World War II, he alleged, without elaborating.

"Based on the premise that Japan must remorsefully face its past offenses and must never justify the offenses, I intended to argue that other nations in the world must not attempt to conclude the matter by blaming only Japan and by associating Japan alone with the simple phrase of `sex slaves' or `sex slavery,'" Hashimoto said in the statement.

Hashimoto said any forms of sexual exploitation of women at conflict, whether it is commercial or military run, is inexcusable.,

Historians say up to 200,000 women, mainly from the Korean Peninsula and China, were forced to provide sex for Japanese soldiers in military brothels. While some other World War II armies had military brothels, Japan is the only country accused of such widespread, organized sexual slavery.

Hashimoto, 43, has become well-known in recent years for his outspokenness. Last year, he formed a conservative party, the Japan Restoration Party, with former Tokyo Gov. Shintaro Ishihara, a strident nationalist. The party is now an opposition party in the parliament.

US, China set the stage for Obama-Xi summit

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. National Security Adviser Tom Donilon began discussions with Chinese officials Monday for a summit between their two presidents that will confront divisive security issues while trying to overcome a growing distrust between the governments.

Donilon and State Councilor Yang Jiechi, China's senior foreign policy official, said next month's summit is a chance for the U.S.'s Barack Obama and China's Xi Jinping to work through problems. Though they did not identify those challenges in their public remarks, ties are strained across the board, from longstanding differences over Iran's and North Korea's nuclear programs to new disputes over cyber-attacks and China's more assertive pursuit of territorial claims against U.S. allies Japan and the Philippines.

In a sign that both sides want to stem the drift besetting ties, the summit now scheduled for June 7-8 is taking place months earlier than the two presidents were supposed to meet. It's their first face-to-face meeting since Obama's re-election and Xi's promotion to head of the Communist Party last November. The setting—at the private estate of the late publishing tycoon Walter Annenberg in southern California—is supposed to be informal, giving Xi and Obama and chance to build a rapport.

That Xi agreed to an informal summit has been seen by Chinese and U.S. experts as positive. His predecessors always preferred formal state visits, splashing images of White House ceremonies and banquets in the Chinese media to bolster their standing as world statesmen.

Good will aside, distrust has deepened in relations in recent years as the U.S. feels its world leadership challenged and China, its power growing, demands greater deference to its interests and a larger say over global rule-setting. Chinese officials and state media regularly say Washington is thwarting China's rise, strengthening alliances in Asia to hem in Beijing and discouraging Chinese investment in the U.S. on national security issues.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported Monday that late last week battle ships and submarines from the Chinese navy's three fleets staged a war game in the South China Sea. The area is already a flashpoint, with Beijing's aggressive claims to disputed islands having rattled the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei.

On Sunday, Li Keqiang—on a visit to Germany in his first trip abroad as China's premier—pressed China's claim to a cluster of East China Sea islands held by Japan. Traveling to Potsdam, where allied powers declared the terms for Japan's surrender 68 years ago in the waning days of World War II, Li told reporters that Japan must not "deny or glorify the history of fascist aggression."

Sri Lanka investigating monk's self-immolation

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's government is investigating the death of a Buddhist monk who set himself on fire last week, saying journalists knew in advance of his plans and could have alerted authorities.

Bowatte Indraratana died over the weekend after setting himself on fire Friday near the famed Temple of Buddha's Tooth Relic in the central town of Kandy. The 30-year-old was the first monk to self-immolate in Sri Lanka.

The Media Ministry said Monday that the monk could have been saved if media personnel had informed authorities about his intentions.

A statement on the ministry's website said the ministry had launched an investigation "following information that the monk had reportedly given a statement to local media about his intention to kill himself by setting himself on fire" to protest against a cattle slaughter.

It said police are probing the incident and have "recorded statements from several reporters who were present at the time the monk divulged his plans."

Police spokesman could not be reached for immediate comment.

Media ministry secretary Charitha Herath was quoted as saying on the website that the monk's life could have been saved "had the local media personnel concerned informed the law enforcement authorities about the monk's intended action."

The monk died of severe burns after suffering injuries to over 95 percent of his body.

The monk was a member of the Sinhala Ravaya (Voice of Sinhala), a hardline Buddhist rights group which protested on Sunday in Colombo against the government's decision to send the monk's body to his village 100 kilometers (about 60 miles) from Colombo. The group wanted the body to be kept in Colombo so they could pay their respects.

The president of the group, Akmeemana Dayaratana, said Indraratana killed himself because the authorities ignored his requests to ban the cattle slaughter." We will continue his struggle and soon launch a country-wide campaign to demand the ban of cattle slaughter."

Buddhism, Sri Lanka's state religion, opposes the killing of any life. Nearly 75 percent of Sri Lankans are Buddhists. Many Buddhists in Sri Lanka do eat meat, but most avoid beef because they consider cows sacred.

The monk's self-immolation last Friday came as the Sri Lankan Buddhists were celebrating the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and the passing away which fell on May 24.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Nurse admits murdering 11 in Sydney nursing home

SYDNEY (AP)—A nurse has pleaded guilty to murdering 11 elderly people by setting fire to the Sydney nursing home where he worked. Roger Dean also pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm to another eight nursing home residents injured by the blaze in 2011. The 37-year-old registered nurse was on duty when he set the fire and later appeared on television describing his efforts to rescue trapped people at the nursing home in the suburb of Quakers Hill. He made his pleas in New South Wales state Supreme Court on Monday. His sentencing hearing starts on Thursday. He potentially faces life imprisonment.

Vietnam arrests well-known blogger for criticism

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnamese police have arrested one of the country's best known bloggers for posting criticism of the communist government. The arrest of 49-year-old Truong Duy Nhat is the latest in an intensified crackdown against dissent in the one-party state. Tuoi Tre newspaper reported Monday that police arrested Nhat at his home in central Danang City on Sunday and he was flown with a police escort to the capital Hanoi for further investigation. He was accused of "abusing democratic freedoms," an offense that carries up to seven years in prison.

Communist rebels ambush Philippine police, kill 7

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Communist guerrillas set off a roadside bomb and opened fire on a truck carrying police in the northern Philippines on Monday, killing seven and wounding seven officers. The members of the elite police Special Action Force were en route to a hospital for a regular medical test when the rebels, hiding in the bush along the road, detonated the explosive device and sprayed the vehicle with gunfire, said the regional police director, Chief Superintendent Rodrigo de Gracia. Such hit-and-run attacks are common throughout the 44-year rural-based Marxist insurgency, which has claimed an estimated 120,000 lives.

World

Israel's president calls for return to peace talks

SOUTHERN SHUNEH, Jordan (AP)—Israel's president on Sunday urged Israeli and Palestinian leaders to overcome differences and resume peace negotiations, saying the sides could not afford "to lose this opportunity."

President Shimon Peres issued his call ahead of a gathering of Mideast leaders on the sidelines of a conference hosted by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum on the shores of the Dead Sea in Jordan.

Sunday's conference included a rare face-to-face meeting between Israeli and Palestinian leaders, with the participation of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who has devoted much of the past two months to restarting long-stalled peace talks.

"We shouldn't lose the opportunity because it will be replaced by a great disappointment," Peres told reporters in Jordan. "For my experience, I believe it's possible to overcome it. It doesn't require too much time."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas agreed.

"Enough is enough. A lot of our young people have started to lose confidence in the two-state solution," he said to a loud applause from an audience of more than 1,000 business and government leaders from 23 countries worldwide.

He blamed the growing mistrust on Israeli moves, essentially construction in West Bank settlements and detention of hundreds of Palestinians.

Abbas reiterated his rejection of partial solutions. "We will neither accept interim solutions, nor a state with temporary borders or a peace based on economic perks without progress on the political track," he said.

AP

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Israeli President Shimon Peres, left, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, right, shake hands together during the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa at the King Hussein Convention Center at the Dead Sea in Jordan Sunday May 26, 2013.

At one point in the closing session, Kerry joked with Abbas and Peres—who exchanged hugs, kisses, handshakes and emotional speeches—telling both from the podium that he had an "agreement you can come up and sign."

Abbas peeked at Peres, pointing to the podium. Then both laughed.

Palestinian-Israeli peace talks broke down nearly five years ago, in large part due to disagreements over Israeli settlement construction on occupied territories claimed by the Palestinians. The Palestinians say there is no point in negotiating while Israel continues to build Jewish settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, which they say undermines their quest to set up an independent state. The Palestinians want both areas, captured by Israel in 1967, as parts of their state.

On his fourth visit to the Middle East since taking office in February, Kerry held talks with Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week. He said during his latest regional swing that both sides must make hard decisions to move toward direct negotiations.

Peres, who won the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize for helping forge an interim deal with the Palestinians, sounded upbeat and determined to help in peacemaking with Palestinians.

"It is time for peace," he said. "I believe this is an important opportunity to (engage), not to waste time, return to negotiations and complete the negotiations with the Palestinians."

He said a peace agreement must be "based on a two state solution: an Israeli state, a Palestinian state living as good neighbors cooperating economically and bringing a message to the young generation."

For decades an ardent supporter of peace with the Palestinians, Peres holds a ceremonial role in Israel, and his views are highly respected in Israeli society. Netanyahu, who has most decision-making powers, holds more hawkish positions than Peres and has given few signs of how he sees a final peace deal with the Palestinians.

Neighbors in Lebanese city fight Syrian proxy war

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (AP)—In a rundown district of Lebanon's second largest city, residents have adapted to waging war with their neighbors.

Whenever violence breaks out, they string large cloths across intersections to block snipers' view, sleep in hallways to take cover from mortar shells and abandon apartments close to the front line.

The sectarian fighting between the two neighborhoods stretches back four decades to Lebanon's civil war. But it has become more frequent and increasingly lethal since the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011. The two districts support opposite sides.

The latest round between Bab Tabbaneh and Jabal Mohsen over the past week has been the bloodiest yet, leaving at least 28 dead and more than 200 wounded.

Bab Tabbaneh is mostly Sunni, while Jabal Mohsen is home to most of Tripoli's Alawites, followers of an offshoot of Shiite Islam.

An 18-year-old with a patchy black beard and a Kalashnikov assault rifle had nothing good to say about Jabal Mohsen. "They don't fear God, they are bad people," he said of his neighbors.

The teen said he is one of 10 brothers who have taken up arms, including one who tried to join the Syrian rebels but was captured and killed by Assad's troops.

Lebanon, a fragile patchwork of more than a dozen religious and ethnic groups, has withstood many sectarian flare-ups since its 15-year civil war ended in 1990.

But there are signs the spillover from the Syria conflict is getting more serious. In addition to the Tripoli fighting, gunmen from rival religious sects are increasingly engaged on opposite sides in Syria.

Over the weekend, Lebanon's Shiite Muslim Hezbollah, which has been fighting alongside Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces, said it would do battle until victory over Syria's rebels, most of them Sunni Muslims. On Sunday, two rockets struck Hezbollah strongholds in Beirut, apparent retaliation for Hezbollah's support of Assad.

In Syria, Shiite-dominated Iran and Hezbollah have lined up behind Assad, an Alawite, while Sunni states like Saudi Arabia support the rebels.

In Bab Tabbaneh, many say they are caught in the same kind of proxy war between the region's Sunni and Shiite powers.

Kenya: UK soldier killing suspect arrested in 2010

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—A suspect in last week's savage killing of a British soldier on a London street was arrested in Kenya in 2010 while apparently preparing to train and fight with al-Qaida-linked Somali militants, an anti-terrorism police official said.

Michael Adebolajo, who was carrying a British passport, was then handed over to British authorities in the East African country, another Kenyan official said Sunday.

The information surfaced as London's Metropolitan Police said specialist firearms officers arrested a man Sunday suspected of conspiring to murder 25-year-old British soldier Lee Rigby. Police gave no other details about the suspect, only saying he is 22 years old.

The arrest brought to nine the number of suspects who have been taken into custody regarding Rigby's horrific killing in London. No one has been charged in the case.

The British soldier, who had served in Afghanistan, was run over, and then, witnesses say, was stabbed with knives by two men in the Woolwich area in southeast London on Wednesday afternoon as he was walking near his barracks.

Adebolajo, 28, and Michael Adebowale, 22, are the main suspects in the killing and remained under armed guard in separate London hospitals after police shot them at the scene.

In 2010, Adebolajo was arrested with five others near Kenya's border with Somalia, Kenya's anti-terrorism police unit chief Boniface Mwaniki told The Associated Press. Police believed Adebolajo was going to work with Somali militant group al-Shabab.

A video clip from a local TV station shows a man appearing to be Adebolajo speaking during a court hearing in the Kenyan city of Mombasa on Nov. 23, 2010. He says, "These people are mistreating us. We are innocent. Believe me," shortly before leaving the court with five other suspects.

Mwaniki said that Adebolajo was deported from Kenya after his arrest in 2010. Kenya's government spokesman said he was arrested under a different name, and taken to court before being handed to British authorities.

"Kenya's government arrested Michael Olemindis Ndemolajo. We handed him to British security agents in Kenya, and he seems to have found his way to London and mutated to Michael Adebolajo," spokesman Muthui Kariuki said. "The Kenyan government cannot be held responsible for what happened to him after we handed him to British authorities."

Kariuki said Adebolajo was traveling on a British passport, but he could not confirm if it was authentic.

WORLD BRIEFS

EU foreign ministers seek solution on Syria arms

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Union foreign affairs ministers will debate whether to ease sanctions against Syria to allow for weapons shipments to rebels fighting the regime of Syria's President Bashar Assad. Britain is the most outspoken proponent of nixing the arms embargo but faces opposition from some members that feel more weapons would only increase the killings and strangle hope for a negotiated settlement, Dutch Minister Frans Timmermans said. Assad has been using extensive firepower against lightly armed rebel factions. More than 70,000 people have died since the uprising against Assad's regime erupted in March 2011.

Wanted Ugandan general says he is hiding in London

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—A wanted Ugandan general who questioned the president's succession plan has requested the protection of British police and won't return home anytime soon, his lawyer said Sunday. Gen. David Sejusa is now hiding from Ugandan undercover agents allegedly sent to track him down in London, where he is traveling, said Ugandan lawyer Joseph Luzige. "Sejusa told me there is a team of people who have been sent to London to hunt him down," the attorney said. "He said these people's intentions are not good at all."

Focus

In this May 22, 2013 photo, a customer eats lunch at Bar Lacubaco in the Vidigal slum, reflected in the window in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. AP

Brazil foodies go off beaten path in Rio's slums

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)— Adriana Peixoto would fit right in at the trendiest Rio de Janeiro bar with her hipster glasses and the big black tattoos on her calves.

But for a weekend gossip session over beers and seafood paella, the 35-year-old audiovisual producer and her friends settled on a venue that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago: a bar in a "favela," one of the hillside slums that were long ruled by ruthless and heavily armed drug gangs and off-limits to outsiders.

The vast majority of Rio's murders still occur in the favelas, some of which are plagued by sporadic shootouts. But under a five-year-old "pacification" program aimed at making Rio safer ahead of next year's World Cup and the 2016 Olympics, police once kept out now have bases in nearly three dozen of the 1,071 slums dotting the city.

The pacified favelas are the newest hotspots for both locals and foreign visitors, who are spending more time at the former no-go zones than traditional tourist magnets like the Christ the Redeemer statue. Now, there's another reason to visit: the growing buzz about the best food and drink the pacified favelas have to offer.

A new Portuguese-language guidebook called "The Gastronomical Guide to the Favelas of Rio" refutes the idea that slum food consists solely of deep-fried snacks by showcasing the people and places behind the shantytowns' tastiest tapioca omelets, greatest grilled chicken, and most scrumptious seafood stews and sushi.

"Food is an excellent tool for breaking down prejudice," said the guide's editor, Sergio Bloch. "For people with lingering worries about danger or prejudice against these places that were impossible to visit for so long, food is a wonderful reason to actually visit a favela."

Bloch and his three researchers visited some 97 establishments in 11 favelas. Like reviewers from the Zagat or hallowed Michelin restaurant guides, venues were judged on food, decor, service and cost.

But Bloch's team often ran into situations no Zagat or Michelin reviewer has likely had to grapple with.

"We went to places where the food was great, but where the smell from a nearby Dumpster made it untenable," said Bloch over rice and beans at Restaurante 48 in the Tabajaras slum, tucked into Rio's Copacabana neighborhood. "Or sometimes we had problems with the smell coming from the gutters, which in some favelas are often open-air sewers."

While many favelas lack in basic sanitation, they often make up for with breathtaking views of the ocean and exclusive neighborhoods below the steep rocky outcroppings.

Twenty-two establishments covering the gamut of food and drink options in Rio's slums made it into the guidebook. They include sit-down restaurants serving Brazilian favorites such as prime cuts of steak and feijoada bean-and-meat stews, as well as foreign specialties-turned-local-staples like pizza and sushi. The guide also showcases hole-in-the-wall juice bars, a hot dog stand and an ambulatory singing and dancing empanada vendor named Adriana. In lieu of an address, her entry reads "circulating throughout the community," and provides her cell phone number.

With its view of the Atlantic's azure waters and its low prices, the Bar Lacubaco in the Vidigal slum could give many conventional Rio restaurants a run for their money. In the land of the $35 martini, where a dinner for two routinely adds up to more than $200, Lacubaco's main courses are just $5-$7 apiece.

Owner Fabio Freire said Vidigal's off-the-grid status helps him keep costs down in what has become Rio's hippest favela, thanks to a prime oceanside location between two of the city's highest-rent neighborhoods.

"I buy my meat from the same suppliers at restaurants down there on the `asphalt,'" said 38-year-old Freire, using slang for non-slum neighborhoods. "But I don't pay for electricity, I don't pay for gas and I don't pay property taxes, so all that slashes my overhead and I can pass the savings on to my customers." People in the slums typically illegally tap into the electrical grid to obtain power.

Lacubaco is located on the main street that slaloms up to the top of Vidigal, but some of eateries listed in the new guide are harder to reach via narrow, zig-zagging, traffic-clogged streets. Whole sections of some favelas are accessible only via steep staircases, and restaurant owners in the slums say the tricky logistics of keeping ingredients in stock is among their biggest challenges. To get to D&C Lanches in the Complexo do Alemao shantytown, you have to take a commuter train to a French-made ski lift that glides over a sea of concrete block houses and has become a tourist attraction in its own right. Rio's O Globo newspaper recently reported that the Alemao lift now has more weekend users than the lift that whisks tourists up Sugarloaf Mountain or the little train to Christ the Redeemer.

D&C Lanches is a modest juice stand where the seating is two plastic tables and chairs on the sidewalk. Dimas de Lemos and his wife, their three children and assorted nephews and cousins serve acai, the Amazon berry slush that's a vitamin- and calorie-packed breakfast staple in Brazil.

Since soldiers surged through Complexo do Alemao's narrow alleyways in 2010, pushing out the drug gangs, de Lemos' clientele has changed dramatically.

"It used to be we'd only get people from the community here," the 37-year-old said. "Now I'd guess it's about 60 percent locals and 40 percent people from outside, including lots of foreigners."

Americans, Germans, Japanese and Britons are among the tourists who have arrived at D&C in their quest to see a favela like the ones featured in the hit 2002 movie, "City of God." De Lemos' most important foreign visitor so far has been Britain's Prince Harry, who toured the favela during his South American trip last year.

AP

In this May 22, 2013 photo, plates sit on a table at the Bar Lacubaco in the Vidigal slum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Twenty-two establishments covering the gamut of food and drink options in Rio's slums made it into a new Portuguese-language guidebook called "The Gastronomical Guide to the Favelas of Rio."

"Foreigners tend to be more open, more curious and harbor fewer prejudices about favelas than Cariocas from the asphalt," said editor Bloch, using the Portuguese term for a Rio resident. "Maybe it's because foreigners weren't exposed to the decades-worth of frightening news about violence in the favelas, they go there with a more open heart."

He said he sometimes hears from Cariocas who are eager to try the traditional shrimp stew known as vatapa at the Barraca das Baianas stand in the Rocinha favela, but "want me to guarantee that nothing will happen to them there.

"Of course I don't think it will, but who can make that sort of guarantee anywhere in the world?" asked Bloch.

Security remains an issue in some pacified slums. Several public schools in Complexo do Alemao were closed in recent days under pressure from a gang upset over the killing of one of their members.

But security seemed to be the last thing on Adriana Peixoto's mind as she and four friends soaked up the beer and sun at a bar in the Chapeu Mangueira favela, near the tony beachfront Leme neighborhood. Motorbikes loaded with teenagers whizzed by, and stray dogs sniffed for crumbs as the group whiled away their Sunday at the Bar do David.

"This is my first time here, and it's great," Peixoto gushed from behind her thick, plastic-framed glasses. "It's as if the favelas, which were always a different world despite being so close to the rest of the city geographically, are finally a part of Rio."

Overdrive

Govt probes reports of Ford F-150 pickups losing power

The federal government is investigating reports that Ford F-150 pickup trucks equipped with Ecoboost engines lost power during hard acceleration, particularly under humid or damp conditions.

The 95 reports involve model year 2011-through-2013 F-150 trucks equipped with 3.5-liter gasoline turbocharged direct injection engines, which are designed to boost fuel economy.

Consumer Reports previously has challenged whether the engines live up to the claims of Ford and other automakers.

About 400,000 Ecoboost-equipped F-150 pickups are involved. Many complaints allege safety concerns associated with overtaking other vehicles, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said last week in announcing the investigation.

No related crashes have been reported so far, according to the NHTSA, which said its investigation is preliminary and designed to determine whether the pickups have a safety defect.

The Dearborn, Mich., automaker said it's cooperating with the investigation. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Kia Cadenza aspires to luxury, and achieves it

By SUSAN CARPENTER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

The 2014 Kia Cadenza is the brand's most expensive vehicle.
KIA/MCT

"Premium" and "Kia" aren't words that naturally tumble together. In the 18 years since the South Korean automaker came to the U.S., it's battled to undo its reputation for cars that are unremarkable for anything other than bargain-basement pricing.

But with its new Cadenza sedan, Kia whittles away that public perception for the many Americans who haven't received the memo about Kia's steady rise in stature. Kia isn't only affordable, it can be aspirational as well.

If it sounds like an oxymoron, its sister brand Hyundai has already proven the concept with its Mercedes S-Class wannabe, the Equus, which was designed for a growing market of pragmatic luxurists who desire a premium experience without the second-mortgage price tag and look-at-me status.

That's precisely what the Cadenza offers. The most expensive Kia on the market, the four-door, five-seat sedan starts at $35,100 with standard features, including navigation, a backup camera and heated leather seats, that often cost extra from more esteemed brands.

The Cadenza exterior is about as plain-Jane as it gets, despite a new take on Kia's tiger-nose grille. Its color palette is available in shades of gray, blue and brown so muted, they beg to be ignored.

While the uninformed on the road are likely to dismiss the mid-sized sedan as just another Kia, the Cadenza's drivers will be luxuriating in a vehicle that could pass for European, if not for the Kia badge in the middle of its leather-and-wood-veneer steering wheel. The knobs on its radio controls are knurled like a Bentley's, its digital dash inlaid with the analog clock that's de rigueur for many European brands.

The Cadenza doesn't strive for European athleticism, though its 3.3-liter V-6 offers a satisfying amount of off-the-line performance as it shifts through its six gears smoothly and automatically. Its fuel economy underscores its goal of ample, rather than overboard, responsiveness, with an EPA-estimated fuel economy rating of 22 mpg combined.

Likewise, its suspension is tuned for comfort, with a new two-channel damping system on the back end to compensate for any lack of road maintenance. Neither spongelike nor Germanic in its precision, it was adequately poised in the corners as I slung the Cadenza through a series of switchbacks recently as part of a day-long launch event for the car.

Based on the Optima—Kia's most premium sedan before the Cadenza came to town—the new, slightly more expensive Kia flagship adds 5 inches to the overall length of the Optima and 2 inches to its wheelbase, the latter of which was incorporated into a rear seat roomy enough for a gaggle of leggy models.

The rear seats don't fold down, but the middle arm rest can be configured to create a pass-through that could accommodate a cello, if the Cadenza's large trunk were employed in a manner consistent with its musical nomenclature and packed with an ensemble's worth of instruments.

Whatever the space or interior appointments, it's the level of wind and road noise that separates lesser brands from their more luxurious counterparts. Once again, the Kia Cadenza defies expectations with sound-reducing reinforcements to the dashboard, side body, chassis and underbody, as well as triple-sealed door seals, to keep exterior noise where it belongs.

The Cadenza I tested was equipped with a technology package boasting a number of Kia firsts, particularly with regard to safety. In an apparent nod to interior luxuries that could prompt drivers to zone out behind the wheel, the Cadenza marks Kia's first application of an optional lane-departure warning system, as well as smart cruise control that monitors the space in front of the vehicle and automatically eases up on the throttle and can apply the brakes to a full stop if it senses a potential impact. Blind spot detection is also an option on the Cadenza with rear-facing radar that looks 200 feet behind the car and beeps and flashes graphics in the side mirrors if the driver has turned on the signals that indicate he may plow into an unsuspecting fellow traveler.

Kia already has the best warranty in the business, offering a 10-year, 100,000 mile warranty on its powertrain. With its Cadenza, it ups the ante with its first complimentary scheduled maintenance program. Drivers who buy in won't just receive the car but its first five factory-scheduled service appointments for free, presuming they take place during the first 36 months of ownership and 37,500 miles of driving.

Cadenza drivers will know it's time to re-route to the dealer's service bay with the free Kia smartphone application, UVO, which automatically alerts drivers to the car's maintenance needs, and can even contact the dealer and schedule service without the driver ever needing to leave his seat.

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Kia Cadenza:

- **Powertrain:** 3.3-liter V-6, 4 valves per cylinder, DOHC, dual continuously variable valve timing, gasoline direct injection, 6-speed automatic transmission
- **Horsepower:** 293 at 6,400 rpm
- **Torque:** 255 pound-feet at 5,200 rpm
- **Overall length:** 195.5 inches
- **Wheelbase:** 112 inches
- **Curb weight:** 3,792 pounds
- **EPA-estimated fuel economy:** 19 city, 28 highway, 22 combined
- **Base price:** $35,100
- **Price as tested:** $41,100

All prices exclude destination charge.

UNDER THE HOOD

Put on detective hat to find Ranger's start problem

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I have a hot-start problem in my 2003 Ford Ranger. The Ranger will start cold, but after being driven for a while and shut down, the engine will not restart. The starter is OK.—Jean Wettstein

ANSWER: This is certainly a frustrating problem, but it shouldn't be too tough to fix if you're willing to become part of the diagnostic team. By your description, it sounds like during a hot-soak restart the Ranger starter cranks fine, but the engine fails to start. "Hot soak" refers to the elevated under-hood temperature that can occur during the first fifteen minutes or so after engine shut-off. Our three categories of concern will be:

- Fuel pressure, particularly the fuel pump and related parts;
- Fuel injector drive, or correct pulsing/clicking;
- Spark, or the ignition system delivering high-voltage pulses to the spark plugs.

First, some questions: Does the "check engine" light come on while driving? If so, helpful trouble codes may be stored. Does the no-start condition happen in a regular or predictable manner? That is, can you learn its habit so the fault can be duplicated? If you can duplicate the condition, do so for a professional technician.

If the fault is difficult to duplicate, let's spend a little time learning two normal sounds when the truck isn't acting up, so you can report your findings to the tech. Fuel pump: With the gas cap removed, listen carefully near the filler neck while a helper turns the key to the run position (run only, not cranking). You should hear a hum for about two seconds, then it will stop. Learn this sound.

Another important sound is fuel-injector clicking. This one is a little more tricky—find a friend with under-hood savvy to point out the easiest-to-reach injector, and the safest way to observe it clicking. A long hardwood stick or screwdriver held to the injector while the engine is cranked or running should yield a noticeable clicking or vibration. If you do not have a clear understanding of moving parts and other under-hood hazards, do not attempt this!

Checking for ignition spark is also a great clue to the no-start puzzle, but this is best left to a pro, or perhaps the process could be taught by a skillful friend. During a no-start episode, checking for a missing hum, click or zap can help a lot to narrow the diagnostic search. A faulty crankshaft or camshaft sensor could extinguish spark or fuel injectors. An inoperative fuel pump could be caused by a faulty pump relay or the pump itself. An erratic electrical connection in perhaps a half-dozen possible places could also result in any of these systems performing poorly or not at all. Since the fault comes and goes with temperature and the truck apparently runs well between bouts, the fault is highly unlikely to be mechanical in nature.

If I were the technician checking this, I'd make a prearranged shopping list of test points, such as the crankshaft sensor and other terminals at the powertrain control module. I'd also take a close look at all scan-tool engine data during a normal start, and be poised to take a data snapshot during an episode for comparison. A fuel pressure gauge, noid light (injector signal tester), and spark tester would also be ready for action. During an episode, it will be necessary to work quickly and decisively to zero in on the cause before things return to normal. Problems like these are challenging, yet fun to trounce.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

'Blue is the Warmest Color' is Cannes' Palme d'Or

CANNES, France (AP)—The tender, sensual lesbian romance "Blue is the Warmest Color: The Life of Adele" won the hearts of the 66th Cannes Film Festival, taking its top honor, the Palme d'Or.

The jury, headed by Steven Spielberg, took the unusual move of awarding the Palme not just to Tunisian-born director Abdellatif Kechiche, but also to the film's two stars: Adele Exarchopoulos and Lea Seydoux. The three clutched each other as they accepted the award, one of cinema's greatest honors.

"The film had a beautiful French youth that I discovered during the long time filming the movie," said Kechiche at the festival closing ceremony Sunday. "It taught me a lot about the spirit of freedom."

Exarchopoulos stars in the French film as a 15-year-old girl whose life is changed when she falls in love with an older woman, played by Seydoux. The three-hour film caught headlines for its lengthy, graphic sex scenes, but bewitched festival goers with its heartbreaking coming of age story.

"Life of Adele," which premiered at Cannes just days after France legalized gay marriage, was hailed as a landmark film for its intimate portrait of a same-sex relationship.

"The film is a great love story that made all of us feel privileged to be a fly on the wall, to see this story of deep love and deep heartbreak evolve from the beginning," said Spielberg.

AP

From left,actress Lea Seydoux, director Abdellatif Kechiche, centre, and actress Adele Exarchopoulos pose for photographers as they arrive for the awards ceremony of the 66th international film festival, in Cannes, southern France, Sunday, May 26, 2013.

"The director didn't put any constraints on the narrative, on the storytelling. He let the scenes play as long as scenes play in real life."

Spielberg called Kechiche ("Games of Love and Chance," ``The Secret of the Gran") a "sensitive, observant filmmaker."

Cannes' feting of "Life of Adele" came the same day tens of thousands of protesters marched against the new law Sunday in Paris, and police clashed with some demonstrators. Seydoux called the film "a witness to our time."

"If it can show everyone tolerance, then it's gratifying," said Exarchopoulos.

But jury member Cristian Mungiu, the Romanian director, said current events had no bearing on the decision.

"We were giving awards to cinema," said Mungiu. "Not for political statements."

"Gay marriage is something that many brave states in America are resolving," said Spielberg. "This film actually carries a wry, strong message, a very positive message."

The Palme d'Or, which the jury selected from the 20 films in competition at Cannes, had been viewed as a relatively wide-open race ahead of Sunday's awards. The festival audience embraced the jury's choice, giving Kechiche and his two stars a standing ovation. "Life of Adele" had ranked highest in critics polls at the French Riviera festival.

The jury otherwise spread the awards around.

The Coen brothers' 1960s folk revival "Inside Llewyn Davis" earned the Grand Prix, Cannes' second most prestigious award. The film's breakout star, Oscar Isaac, accepted the award for the Coens, who won the Palme in 1991 for "Barton Fink."

Best actor went to 76-year-old Bruce Dern for Alexander Payne's father-son road trip "Nebraska." Berenice Bejo, the "Artist" star, won best actress for her performance as a single mother balancing a visiting ex-husband and a new fiancé in Asghar Farhadi's "The Past."

The jury prize, Cannes' third top award, went to Kore-eda Hirokazu's gentle switched-at-birth drama "Like Father, Like Son." Mexican filmmaker Amat Escalante took best director for his brutal drug war drama "Heli." Best screenplay went to Zhangke Jia's "A Touch Of Sin," a four-part depiction of the violence wrought by China's economic boom.

Singaporean director Anthony Chen won the Camera d'Or, the award for best first feature, for his "Ilo Ilo." Set during the Asia financial crisis in 1997, the film is about a Singaporean family and its new maid.

Spielberg, whose jury also included Ang Lee, Nicole Kidman and Christoph Waltz, said the group bonded immediately, joking: "I wanted to take them all home with me."

The Palme d'Or can catapult a filmmaker to international renown, and significantly raise the profile of a film. "Life of Adele" was picked up for U.S. distribution during Cannes by IFC's Sundance Selects. Last year's winner, Michael Haneke's "Amour," went on to win best foreign language film at the Oscars, as well as land the rare best picture nomination for a foreign film. In 2011, Terrence Malick's "The Tree of Life" topped Cannes.

Sunday's awards encompassed films from France, Japan, the United States, Mexico, China and Singapore.

Said Spielberg: "We crossed the world through these films."

SEEN AND HEARD

Associated Press journalists open their notebooks at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival:

Uncomfortable moments

Talk about awkward.

Not only did Adele Exarchopoulos' father watch the graphic sex scenes between her and another woman in Cannes Palme d'Or-winning "Blue Is The Warmest Color (The Life of Adele)," she was with him when he took in the film at its premiere.

"During the love scenes I was ill at ease with my father being there, but at the same time I wanted him to be there. And I knew that he would probably have a very good reaction because it's all a question of intelligence and he's intelligent and therefore would understand," said Exarchopoulos.

She added:

"During the sex scene I was looking at him, like, 'Oh my god, how does he feel' because I don't want to make him uncomfortable, you know?" the 19-year-old said in an interview. "I think I was trying to take a certain distance from what was happening during the love scenes."

In the film, Exarchopoulos stars as 15-year-old Adele. She's heterosexual, but after meeting co-star Lea Seydoux's Emma, falls in love and begins to struggle with her sexuality. On Sunday, Steven Spielberg's jury awarded the festival's top honor, the Palme d'Or, to "Life of Adele" director Abdellatif Kechiche, but also to the film's two stars.

Exarchopoulos said she and Seydoux shared nervous giggles before filming the intimate scenes, but that's it.

"It really developed, there was no choreography at all. We tried to put ourselves in the situation, and it helped in a way that I was new to the situation because my character is new to the situation as well," she said. "So it was all right that I was destabilized. Lea was leading me and I was kind of following in the flow. But I must say it was a strong thing to play."

This is one of two films Seydoux is promoting at this year's festival. The other, "Grand Central," from director Rebecca Zlotowski, is showing in the Un Certain Regard category.

The actress, who cut her hair and dyed it blue for "Adele," said she liked the challenge of her role.

"I really enjoyed playing this part, this tomboy even if it was very difficult sometimes. I like to play parts that are complex, and I like ambiguity and I like contradictions as well, she's like, I like to really give something very subtle," she said.

Breaking the mold

Li Yu Chun doesn't exactly mesh with the image of most starlets who walk on the red carpets at the Cannes Film Festival.

Instead of flowing gowns, the Chinese singer has worn dramatic capes that accompany striking pantsuits. And while many female celebrities sport cascading locks, Chun has her hair cut short, pixie style.

"A lot of people are asking me, 'Why aren't you wearing a long dress like a princess?'" said Chun, who came to the festival as a representative of the cosmetics brand L'Oreal. "I have another personality and that is why I have to show my own personality with the suits that fit me. That is why I love to work with L'Oreal because they have given me self-confidence."

Chun, who is known for her boyish, androgynous looks, said she was surprised to be chosen as a L'Oreal ambassador since she represents a different look than some of their other representatives at the festival, like Freida Pinto, Julianne Moore, Aishwarya Rai and Eva Longoria.

"Usually they choose girls with long hair and big waves in her hair and that is not exactly my image," she laughed. "That is why I was surprised but happily surprised."

Chun shot to fame when she won "Chinese Best Voices," that country's version of "American Idol. She said she was excited to be in Cannes for the festivities, but was also getting some work done as well.

"I am also participating in their meetings to discuss about how to represent and how to organize promoting events," the 29-year-old said. "They are organizing a lot of activities for me too and this is why I find it very very exciting."

Tailor-made roles

For director Arnaud Desplechin, it was either Benicio Del Toro and Mathieu Amalric for "Jimmy P" or no movie.

"I thought if I can't have them, I won't do the film," he said in an interview this week.

Luckily for him, both Del Toro and malric said yes to the project.

In "Jimmy P (Psychotherapy of a Plains Indian)," Amalric plays real-life French analyst Georges Devereux, who moved to the United States in the 1930s. He spent time living with Mojave Indians and helped develop the field of ethno-psychiatry, which studies the ways mental illness is understood in different cultural contexts.

Del Toro is his patient Jimmy Picard, who returned from World War II in France with a head injury and debilitating psychological symptoms his doctors were unable to diagnose.

Desplechin said it's the first time he's written a film with actors already in mind.

"I was so nervous when I started it because it was quite difficult to produce because the film is half French, half American, so it was quite tricky," he said. "So before writing it I was thinking who could play in that? I wrote it really for Benicio and Mathieu, they were the two guys."

Jolie aunt dies of breast cancer days after op-ed

ESCONDIDO, California (AP)—Angelina Jolie's aunt has died of breast cancer less than two weeks after Jolie had a double mastectomy to avoid the disease.

Debbie Martin died at age 61 at a hospital in Escondido, California, near San Diego, her husband, Ron Martin, told The Associated Press.

Debbie Martin was the younger sister of Jolie's mother, Marcheline Bertrand, whose own death from ovarian cancer in 2007 inspired the surgery that Jolie described in a May 14 op-ed in the New York Times.

According to her husband, Debbie Martin had the same defective BRCA1 gene that Jolie does, but didn't know it until after her 2004 cancer diagnosis.

"Had we known, we certainly would have done exactly what Angelina did," Ron Martin said in a phone interview.

Jolie

Debbie Martin's death was first reported by E! News.

Ron Martin said after getting breast cancer, Debbie Martin had her ovaries removed preventively because she was also at very high genetic risk for ovarian cancer, which has killed several women in her family.

The 37-year-old Jolie said in her op-ed that her doctors estimated that she had a 50 percent risk of getting ovarian cancer but an 87 percent risk of breast cancer.

She had her breasts removed first, reducing her likelihood to a mere 5 percent.

She described the three-step surgical process in detail in the op-ed "because I hope that other women can benefit from my experience."

The story, a surprise to most save those closest to Jolie, spurred a broad discussion of genetic testing and pre-emptive surgery.

A message left with representatives seeking comment from Jolie was not immediately returned.

Fame part of family business for Will, Jaden Smith

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, N.M. (AP)—Will Smith has a new outlook on teenagers: Parents do indeed understand.

The rapper-turned-actor says he's "grown a lot" since writing the Grammy-winning 1988 hit that humorously declared they didn't.

All three of his children now at least dabble in music and acting, most notably 14-year-old Jaden, who stars with his father in the new sci-fi film "After Earth," opening Friday. Even in the midst of a globe-hopping promotional tour for the movie, Smith recognizes the downside to making stardom a family affair.

"I think that the major risk of this particular business is strictly emotional," he said in a recent interview. "The business has almost a narcotic quality. So it's almost as if you're introducing a narcotic into your kid's life.

"So for (wife) Jada (Pinkett Smith) and I, the most important thing is that they have to stay focused and grounded on the fact that they are giving. You don't make movies for your ego. You make movies to transfer information, to bring joy, to add value to the world."

At an "After Earth" promotional event at the under-construction Virgin Galactic spaceport in the New Mexico desert, Smith does everything he can to playfully poke at his son's ego.

AP

In this Thursday, May 16, 2013 file photo, Will Smith, left, and Jaden Smith attend "After Earth" Day at the Miami Science Museum in Miami, Fla.

When Jaden loudly drops a water bottle during a TV interview, he's quickly reprimanded: "You're kidding, right? You're kidding. That's the most unprofessional thing I've seen you do."

Smith reaches over to shield his son's face from bright camera lights, taunting the teen as a "super mega movie star, towering over you like a shadow over you. And you're living in his shadow. And you've got to do interviews in his shadow."

Jaden, obviously accustomed to the teasing, responds with calm confidence and some of dad's hammy humor, saying he lives "naturally" in the spotlight.

"You have to try to put your shadow on me," said Jaden, who rode his skateboard through a hall between interviews. "But eventually your arm gets tired and it falls away and you let me go back to my natural state."

His father nods in mock sincerity. "Oh that's deep. You are a deep being," he says.

Their film is set in a future where nature has turned on humans and survivors were forced to start a new civilization on another planet. Jaden plays a trainee trying to follow in the footsteps of his father, a famous military leader played by Smith. When the two crash-land on an inhospitable Earth, Jaden's character must prove his own abilities to survive, and save his father in the process.

"It is very allegorical in a way, right?" said screenwriter Gary Whitta, who developed the story with Smith and co-wrote the film with director M. Night Shyamalan. "Jaden I'm sure looks up to Will and is like 'Wow, my dad is like the biggest movie star in the world. How can I ever live up to that?' But he's trying."

Smith, 44, and Jaden first co-starred together in 2006's "The Pursuit of Happyness." Smith produced his son's hit 2010 remake of "The Karate Kid" with Jackie Chan, which made over $350 million worldwide. (Smith's last movie, last summer's "Men In Black 3," earned over $600 million globally.)

Smith said he wants his family to be successful in the entertainment industry across generations, and has searched Hollywood history for models.

"I've looked for a lot of years. The Barrymores got really close to what I see in my head for my family," Smith said, referring to the clan of theatre and film actors famed in the 1930s and now represented by Drew Barrymore.

Smith's daughter Willow, now 12, appeared in two movies but has focused on music. After causing a stir with the pop smash "Whip My Hair" three years ago, she's backed away from the spotlight but continued to release songs online. Smith's other son, 20-year-old Trey, has taken up DJ work and posts electronic dance songs and mixes online. Jada Pinkett Smith is an actress, author, singer-songwriter and businesswoman. She and Smith started Overbrook Entertainment, which has produced many of Smith's films, including "After Earth."

Smith makes no apologies for encouraging his children to follow their parents toward cameras and microphones.

"I grew up in a family business. So it's like everybody works together and that's how the family bonds and communicates and how we eat," he said.

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Bill Clinton, other celebs at Vienna AIDS charity

VIENNA (AP)—Cross-dressers, half-naked revelers, a famed fashion designer, entertainment icons and a former U.S. president shared the spotlight in the Austrian capital for the Life Ball, a night of hedonistic revelry for a good cause—the funding of AIDS research.

As in past years, Vienna's city hall and the huge square in front of it was transformed into a magical stage, this year with the theme being "Tales of 1,001 Nights."

Turbaned genies jostled sensuous harem queens, Persian princes and others clad in everything between. Others dressed—or undressed—to the beat of their own drum. A man in his 70s wore feathery angel's wings and white platform boots that disappeared in the folds of his oversized trench coat. Still others sported tuxes or tails. Jeans or cutoffs were verboten—and style police were present to enforce the dress code.

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton was among the more than a dozen prominent guests that included singers Fergie and Elton John, actress Melanie Griffith and designer Roberto Cavalli.

AP

Guests in fancy costumes arrive for the opening ceremony of the 21st Life Ball in front of city hall in Vienna, Austria, on Saturday, May 25, 2013.

Thanking the show's organizers, Clinton urged the world to get involved in the anti-AIDS fight, declaring that those who want to help "do not have to be scientists, they do not have to be doctors; they have to be people who care."

With temperatures hovering around 10 degrees Celsius (50 degrees Fahrenheit,) there was less bare skin then in past years on the square. Some men and women went topless nonetheless, in anticipation of steamier times at the all-night party in the neo-Gothic city hall. DJ's and live bands were set up in dozens of rooms, along with buffet tables groaning with finger food and bars offering alcoholic beverages of all descriptions.

"Cold? Not really," said a young man whose naked upper body was dyed blue and who identified himself only as Gert. "The body paint is keeping me warm."

Eser Zade, mascaraed and clad in a fantastic outfit of white sequined tights, a flowing blue cape lined with fake ermine and a tall crown displaying faux pearls, was visibly proud of the attention he was getting.

"I designed it myself and had my tailor make it in Turkey," he said, demurring when asked how much it costs because "one doesn't answer such questions."

The show on the square befitted the occasion, with orchestras and disc jockeys serving up a musical menu that spanned the range from Mozart to Disney—all of course with a fairy-tale Middle Eastern theme. Ballet skits alternated with gyrating disco dancers.

As thousands of spectators pressed against mesh wire barriers separating them from the paying guests, a light show of pulsating purples and reds transformed the venue into a super-dimensional Fantasyland.

Affleck gets honorary doctorate from Brown

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP)—Academy Award-winning actor and director Ben Affleck has received one of six honorary doctorate degrees from Brown University.

Affleck was among artists, writers, scientists and educators to receive the degrees from the Ivy League school at commencement exercises Sunday. He received a doctor of fine arts degree. The Massachusetts native directed, produced and starred in "Argo," which won this year's Oscar for Best Picture.

Others getting honorary doctorates were author and MIT Professor Junot Diaz; retired Stanford University bacteriologist Stanley Falkow; Tougaloo College President Beverly Wade Hogan; medical doctor and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation President Risa Lavizzo-Mourey; and Miami Dade College President Eduardo Padron.

The university conferred more than 2,400 degrees Sunday.

Ben Affleck gestures before receiving an honorary degree at Brown University's 245th commencement in Providence, R.I., Sunday, May 26, 2013.

AP

Roman Polanski laments leveling of sexes as 'idiotic'

CANNES, France (AP)—Roman Polanski says the birth control pill has had a "masculinizing" effect on women and that the leveling of the sexes is "idiotic"

The director made the comments Saturday at the Cannes Film Festival, where he came to premiere "Venus in Fur," a film adapted from the David Ives play which stars Polanski's wife and toys with the subject of gender.

Polanski said the pill has "changed the place of women in our times" while talking to reporters. He further lamented that "offering flowers to a lady" has become "indecent."

Polanski

The 79-year-old Polanski was famously convicted of having sex with a minor in a 1977 case. He was initially indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molesting and sodomy, but pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful sexual intercourse.

Polanski, whose past films include "Chinatown" and "Rosemary's Baby," fled the United States after a Los Angeles judge threatened further sanctions.

He's restricted by an Interpol warrant in effect in 188 countries, but he moves freely between Switzerland and France. He was freed from Swiss house arrest in 2010 after the government refused to deport him to the United States.

Polanski's new film stars his wife, Emmanuelle Seigner, and Mathieu Amalric as an actress and theater director rehearsing an adaptation of Leopold von Sacher-Masoch's 1870 novella, "Venus in Furs." The film features Seigner as a strong, feminine actress who comes to dominate her director.

'Fast' races past 'Hangover' at weekend box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's a blowout at the box office.

"Fast & Furious 6" is revving past "The Hangover Part III" in the No. 1 position at the Memorial Day holiday weekend box office.

Universal Pictures' sixth installment of its muscle car franchise featuring Vin Diesel and Paul Walker debuted with $98.5 million domestically from Friday to Sunday, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Meanwhile, the final edition of the raunchy Warner Bros. comedy trilogy starring Zach Galifianakis, Bradley Cooper and Ed Helms opened with $42.1 million in the No. 2 spot.

Universal estimates that by the end of the four-day holiday weekend Monday, "Fast & Furious 6" will have pulled in $122.2 million domestically and $275.5 million worldwide. That would give it the second-biggest opening of the year behind "Iron Man 3."

Paramount Pictures' science-fiction sequel "Star Trek: Into Darkness" earned $38 million at No. 3 in its second weekend at the box office, while the Fox animated film "Epic" opened at No. 4 with $34.2 million.

Overall domestic receipts for the four-day Memorial Day weekend are expected to come in ahead of 2011's record-breaking $276 million.

Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com, estimated that four-day revenues this time will total $323 million, about 15 percent above Memorial Day weekend in 2011, when "The Hangover Part II" delivered a $103.4 million debut.

AP

Crowds gather to watch the 4,335 strong choir of St. Petersburg perform a mass choir program near the city's famed St. Isaac's Cathedral to honor the city's 310th anniversary and aimming to set the Guinness wold record, in St.Petersburg, Russia, Sunday, May 26, 2013.

Russian choir of 4,335 performs in St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)—More than 4,000 Russian singers have performed outdoors in St. Petersburg with the aim of setting a world record for the largest choir.

The 4,335 singers of all ages and from nearly all of the city's professional and amateur choirs sang from the steps of St. Isaac's Cathedral before thousands of spectators under an intermittent rain. The spectators, who closed their umbrellas with the start of Sunday's performance, sang along during the one-hour concert.

The 14 songs performed included some of the most popular and patriotic songs of Russia and the Soviet Union, including a hymn celebrating the country's victory in World War II.

Yulia Alshenina, whose daughter sang in the choir, said the concert was so moving she could not hold back her tears.

Warring employees in office must be brought to a truce

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I own a business with just two employees, my husband and a very old friend. The friend has been in the business for 15 years, and he is critical to running it. My husband has been with me for 11 years, but in the business for only three. He is not critical to running the business.

Their relationship is a constant strain. Neither one likes the other, but they generally tolerate each other. When tensions arise they become emotional, and I end up caught between them, unable to put an end to it.

How do we work and live in peace? Their conflict is affecting the smooth functioning of the business. What should I do to end the hostility? I'm a quiet type, which probably feeds the situation.

WALKING ON EGGSHELLS

DEAR WALKING ON EGGSHELLS: You may be a quiet type, but you are also the boss. The atmosphere you describe is unhealthy for your business. For it to continue to be successful, your business must be nurtured as a separate entity apart from your friendship and your marriage.

Because the present situation makes it difficult for all of you to function together, I'm suggesting that you tell your husband you love him, but either he must get along with the longtime employee or leave the business—because it's the business that is paying the bills, feeding and putting a roof over all of you!

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A friend, "Wanda," invited my husband, "Hugh," and me to a dinner party two years ago. Hugh had too much to drink and insulted not only Wanda but also one of the guests. He apologized the next day.

This is not the first time he has done this at dinner parties, and his behavior has had a negative impact on some of my best friendships. I used to entertain all the time, but I can no longer invite my friends over as they no longer want to be around Hugh.

Wanda continues to invite me to her dinner parties, but has made a point of telling me that Hugh is NOT invited. Not wanting to lose another friend, I have been going alone. I let my husband know why, and he says it doesn't bother him, but I feel guilty attending without him. My friendships are important to me and I'm torn about what to do.

PARTY OF ONE

DEAR PARTY: If your husband can't control his behavior when he's had a drink or two, then he should not be drinking in public. That he says it "doesn't bother him" that he's no longer welcome in these people's homes is sad, as it should be a glaring signal that he needs help.

Because he isn't ready to do something about his problem, continue to socialize without him. That you do is admirable, so please stop feeling guilty about it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: About a year ago, my wife had an affair with one of the instructors at a training seminar. We are working to repair our marriage and are making great strides. She says there's nothing else going on now.

My wife has been invited to a graduation ceremony where she is to receive an award from the same instructor. This will be the first time I meet this person, and I have mixed feelings about it. How should I approach this meeting?

MIXED FEELINGS IN MISSOURI

DEAR MIXED FEELINGS: Do it with cool civility, complete sobriety and as little contact as possible.

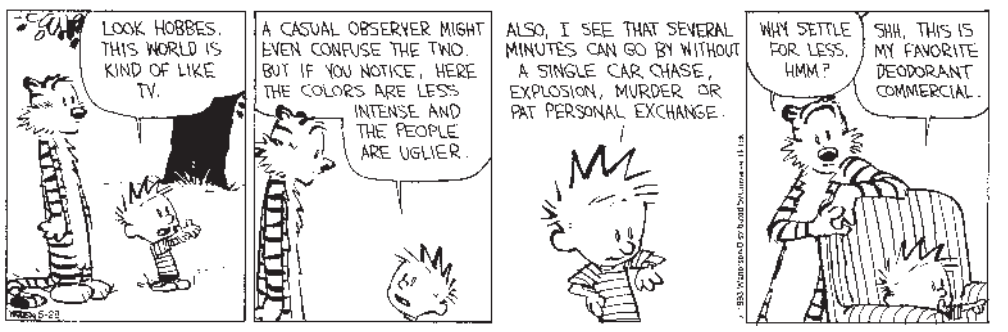
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

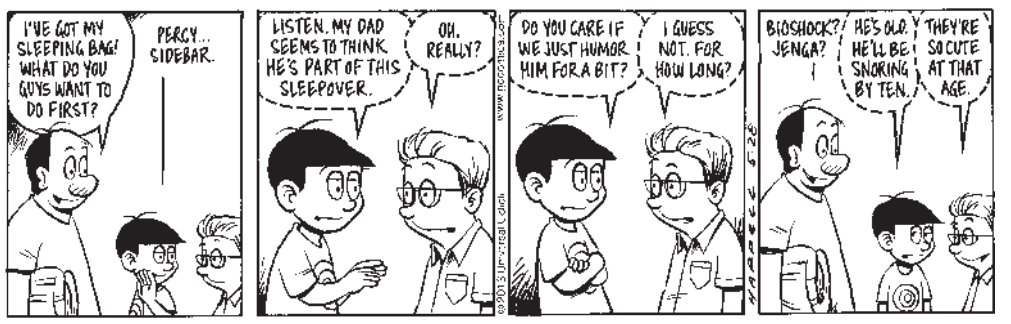

LOOK, HOBBES. THIS WORLD IS KIND OF LIKE TV.
A CASUAL OBSERVER MIGHT EVEN CONFUSE THE TWO. BUT IF YOU NOTICE, HERE THE COLORS ARE LESS INTENSE AND THE PEOPLE ARE UGLIER.
ALSO, I SEE THAT SEVERAL MINUTES CAN GO BY WITHOUT A SINGLE CAR CHASE, EXPLOSION, MURDER OR PAT PERSONAL EXCHANGE.
WHY SETTLE FOR LESS, HMM?
SHH, THIS IS MY FAVORITE DEODORANT COMMERCIAL.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

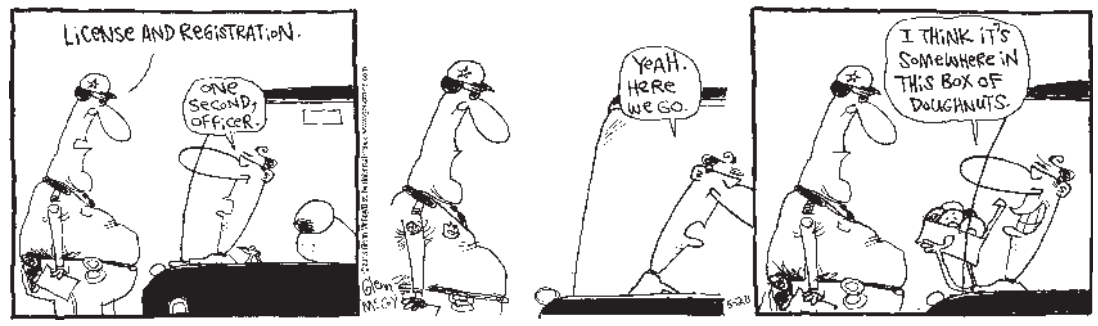
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'VE GOT MY SLEEPING BAG! WHAT DO YOU GUYS WANT TO DO FIRST?
PERCY... SIDEBAR.
LISTEN. MY DAD SEEMS TO THINK HE'S PART OF THIS SLEEPOVER.
OH. REALLY?
DO YOU CARE IF WE JUST HUMOR HIM FOR A BIT?
I GUESS NOT. FOR HOW LONG?
BIOSHOCK? JENGA?
HE'S OLD. HE'LL BE SNORING BY TEN.
THEY'RE SO CUTE AT THAT AGE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

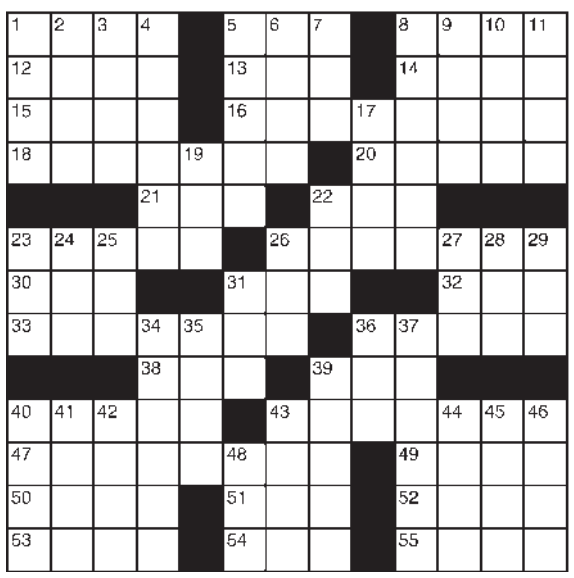
ACROSS
1 St. Louis landmark
5 Hostel
8 Grime
12 Silver salmon
13 Kan. neighbor
14 Sandwich cookie
15 Destruction
16 Thrilling
18 Passage
20 Idles
21 Still
22 "You've got mail" co.
23 Really fun time
26 Leave out
30 Thither
31 Beer cousin
32 Queue
33 Shout out
36 Co-star with Ball, Arnaz and Frawley
38 Branch
39 Dine
40 Larynx output
43 Surpasses
47 "My bad"
49 By word of mouth
50 Night light?
51 Atmosphere
52 Loosen
53 Paquin or Quindlen
54 Final (Abbr.)
55 Exam

DOWN
1 Land measure
2 Sauce thickener
3 Stylish
4 Sweethearts
5 Klutzy
6 Adjoining
7 Leno's network
8 "Is that so?"
9 Eye part
10 Landlord's due
11 Garb
17 Sporty Camaro
19 Emeritus (Abbr.)
22 Chopper
23 "See ya"
24 Bagel topping
25 Anti-apartheid org.
26 Shade source
27 Samovar
28 "What's up, —?"
29 Ram's mate
31 Intent
34 Gap
35 War god
36 Carpet cleaner, for short
37 Went to a restaurant
39 Put forth, as energy
40 — cava
41 The yoke's on them
42 PC picture
43 Painter Nolde
44 Sea eagle
45 June honorees
46 Coin aperture
48 Water (Fr.)

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	T	A	B	■	D	A	D	■	F	A	T	S
A	R	I	A	■	I	R	A	■	O	N	I	T
G	E	N	T	■	S	I	M	U	L	A	T	E
A	F	T	E	R	C	■	E	L	I	C	I	T
■	■	■	A	I	L	S	■	T	O	O	■	■
O	S	C	U	I	A	T	F	■	S	N	O	W
I	O	U	■	L	I	O	N	S	■	D	U	E
L	U	L	L	■	M	O	D	U	L	A	T	E
■	■	■	P	O	T	■	D	O	M	E	■	■
S	P	A	C	E	D	■	D	O	O	D	L	E
T	A	B	U	L	A	T	E	■	N	E	E	D
E	L	L	S	■	S	I	R	■	I	C	E	D
M	E	E	T	■	H	E	M	■	D	O	R	Y

Yesterday's answer 5-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carey Mulligan, 28; Kylie Minogue, 45; Christa Miller, 49; Gladys Knight, 69

Happy Birthday: Live and learn. Experiment and discover new talents and develop skills that will help you build a better future. An innovative idea can help you expand your interests as well as your income. Look at the big picture and push to make the alterations that will bring you the greatest happiness and the fullest life. Your numbers are 5, 11, 25, 27, 32, 44, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do whatever job you are given as best you can and then move along. The information you pick up will change the way you do things in the future. Sharing information with someone special will lead to a promise, an incentive and a joint goal. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Go in the direction you feel most drawn toward. Check out what you need to know to embrace a change you would like to make in your current direction. Educational pursuits will bring you one step closer to your long-term goal. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Not everyone will agree with the direction you choose, but following your heart is the only way to satisfy your curiosity. Give whatever it is you want to pursue the best effort possible and you will find a way to succeed. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll have to find unusual ways to deal with concerns that older or younger people you know are experiencing. Your ability to find solutions will spark an idea that can improve your day-to-day routine as well as your financial situation. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): What you do for others will have a huge impact. Speak up and be willing to enforce what needs to be done instantly. The results you get by taking a no-nonsense approach to the situations you face will help you advance. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take one step at a time. Someone will try to derail whatever you are trying to accomplish. Don't misinterpret someone's interest as genuine. Ulterior motives are apparent and you must not offer information that could jeopardize your position. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take the initiative and express what you have to offer. Interacting with people who share your concerns and interests will lead to a partnership that will help you accomplish your goals. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Incorporate some innovative ideas into how you run your household or set up space to house projects you want to pursue. Expanding an interest you have or a service you want to offer will lead to a change in cash flow. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make positive changes at home and within the relationships you share with loved ones. You can reach personal goals if you speak up about the way you feel. Love is on the rise, and enhancing your connections will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Get involved in physical activities that will challenge you. Your competitive drive won't let you down. You can make an impression on onlookers, but it's those you are closer to who will need more evidence regarding your ability to reach your goals. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't get angry; get busy. Take action and let everyone see what you can do. You'll impress someone you have a personal interest in and your accomplishments will give you an appeal that will bring you greater popularity. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Helping a cause will help you. The people you connect with and share your thoughts and ideas with will develop into an interesting venture. But when it comes to love and your domestic situation, be careful not to ruffle any feathers. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a contributor and a participant in the search for knowledge.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		2	3	5		6	
5	8						7	1
4			6		7			3
6				5				7
8			4		9			5
3	6						1	8
	7		8	2	1		5	

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	7	3	4	5	1	2	6	8
4	8	2	6	9	7	3	5	1
6	5	1	3	2	8	7	9	4
7	3	5	1	8	6	9	4	2
8	6	9	5	4	2	1	7	3
2	1	4	9	7	3	6	8	5
5	9	6	2	1	4	8	3	7
3	2	7	8	6	5	4	1	9
1	4	8	7	3	9	5	2	6

Difficulty Level ★ 5/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'PRETTY LITTLE LIARS' (TV SERIES) **Solution: 7 letters**

M	T	V	H	N	A	I	O	R	T	E	A	M	E	M
I	O	A	A	R	E	L	Y	T	H	A	L	E	N	S
T	R	N	S	Y	H	B	E	N	S	O	N	W	E	T
C	R	D	T	B	(E)	R	E	M	I	L	Y	O	M	O
H	E	E	I	G	R	(L)	A	N	N	E	J	L	I	R
E	Y	R	N	A	O	E	(L)	A	A	S	H	L	E	Y
L	P	W	G	R	I	M	N	(A)	V	Y	A	H	S	L
L	A	A	S	I	C	N	E	D	A	H	C	P	U	I
U	R	A	E	A	A	O	S	R	A	C	E	C	F	N
C	E	L	C	H	R	R	A	T	Y	N	A	I	R	E
Y	H	I	R	I	U	Y	M	X	C	S	T	L	I	N
A	T	S	E	D	A	B	A	E	E	Z	R	A	E	Y
N	T	O	T	D	L	E	R	T	E	E	N	R	N	B
O	R	N	S	E	R	E	D	A	E	L	W	Y	D	O
M	A	R	I	N	O	S	A	J	E	L	Y	T	S	T

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Alison, Aria, Ashley, Benson, Brendan, Byron, Caleb, Chad, Drama, Ella, Emily, Enemies, Ezra, Fitz, Friends, Garrett, Hale, Hanna, Hastings, Heroic, Hidden, Jason, Jenna, Laura, Leader, Lowe, Lucas, Lucy, Marin, Mitchell, Mona, Montgomery, Secrets, Shay, Spencer, Storyline, Style, Team, Teen, Text, Therapy, Toby, Torrey, Troian, Tyler, Vanderwaal, Vanish, Wren

Yesterday's Answer: Tape

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 34 is "Celebrities Vol. 3." To order, call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universal.uclick.com. (Contains 45 puzzles, including 9 20x20 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Front desk-Lady. Pick up application form at Mascot Corp. office, Beach Rd., Garapan. Tel. 235-2998/4998.

TICKET FOR SALE

Round-trip airline ticket to Houston, Texas for $600.00. Call John 783-0071.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Unique, breezy, large home-DanDan. 1st F.-living, dining, Kit, 1bd-1bth; 2nd F.-3bd-2bth, walk-in-closet, patio; 3rd F.-BBQ, sitting area, view LauLau. Call 322-0268 for more details.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Starting as low as... **$29.99** without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

American K&W Corporation
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
(2) Masseuse
Salary $5.55 p/h. Minimum 2 years experience.
Knowledge in Japanese & Chinese language a plus.
Interested applicants may call Yang Xia at 233-9468

POLARIS DEVELOPMENT CORP.
is looking for:
(3) Beautician
Must have at least 2 years experience.
(3) Commercial Cleaner
Must have at least 2 years experience.
Any applicant tentatively selected for this position is required to submit and pass a drug test screening prior to employment.
APPLY IN PERSON AND BRING RESUME
For more info please call Ms. Jojo Faller at 235-5598, 235-5599 or 483-1971.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

(01) SYSTEM MANAGER

- Must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent.
- A minimum of two to four years of work-related skill, knowledge, or experience preferred.
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
- Maintains all of company's computer systems that include computer hardware, computer software, computer networks and advance server skills.
- Oversees administrative areas and designs, develops and maintains a paperless computer system.
- Oversees medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software.
- Building maintenance repair, electronic record and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with medical and Medicaid standards.
- Performs such other duties as may be assigned.
- Must be flexible with work schedule.
- Must have a valid CNMI drivers license.

Interested applicants must submit resume or fill out an application at Health Professional Corporation dba Saipan Health Clinic in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on 05/31/2013 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call Judy I. Arriola at (670) 234-2901 ext. 124.

HOFSCHNEIDER ENGINEERING, LLC.
Job Vacancy Announcement

One (1)Staff Engineer

Experience: 7 years or more,

- Demonstrated ability to apply FHWA/FAA/EPA/IBC/ASTM/AASHTO/ACI design and regulatory requirements as they apply to design and construction projects
- Proficient in AutoCAD, AutoCAD Civil 3D, Stormwater Analysts Software, MS Office, MS Project, Prolog Manager & Converge

Interested applicants may submit their resume to
Hofschneider Engineering, LLC 2nd Flr. JET Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.
Deadline of Submission: May 29, 2013.
No phone calls and walk-in interview

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd.
is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Housekeeper
High school diploma or GED Certificate. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, June 06, 2013.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

MARIANAS TREKKING SAIPAN

Join the Team!

Adventure Guide
Lead Mountain Bike, Hike, Snorkel, and Kayak Adventure Tours. Must be friendly, outgoing, and safety minded. Good candidates will have experience in the visitor industry and have exceptional people skills. CPR, First Aid, Lifeguarding, and Language skills all help.

Assistant Adventure Guide
Assist in Leading Mountain Bike, Hike, Snorkel, and Kayak Adventure Tours. Need exceptional people skills, a winning attitude, and attention to teamwork and safety. Will consider training the right person.

Eco Camp Counselors
Assist in Eco Camp Summer Program 06/17 to 08/09. Lead kids ages 4 to 13 in a wide variety of Camp Activities including Kayaking, Snorkeling, Swimming, Golf, Arts and Crafts, Music, Dancing and more. Must have experience working with children.

Photographer
Are you a good shot? Looking for experienced photographer to take scenic, underwater, and people pictures.

Apply in Person at the Marianas Trekking Adventure Center at the Mariana Resort and Spa between 9:00a.m. and 5:00p.m.
Police clearance and references are required.
Salary commensurate with experience. Tel. 323-8735

WHATZIT Solution: Knock-on effect

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Heat break out in Game 3 for 2-1 lead over Pacers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indiana Pacers didn't see this version of Udonis Haslem coming. There was no reason to.

Haslem, a veteran forward who had scored in single digits in six of his previous seven playoff games, finished with 17 points on 8-for-9 shooting to help the Miami Heat beat the Pacers 114-96 in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals on Sunday night.

The Heat took a 2-1 lead in the series and regained home-court advantage with Game 4 set for Tuesday night in Indianapolis.

Haslem went a quiet 1-for-7 from the floor in the first two games of the series, but he looked for his shot early and often in Game 3. His mid-range jumpers constantly left 7-foot-2 center Roy Hibbert out of position. Hibbert had been playing slightly loose defense on Haslem and Chris Bosh to help protect the rim and the lane against LeBron James and Dwyane Wade.

Hibbert said Haslem's effectiveness forced him to change his approach.

"I think he was really the guy that pushed them, the catalyst for them," he said. "Just him hitting those shots really made us have to think on defense. Who do we guard? Do we guard the paint, or do we have to go out to the shooters out in the corner."

Pacers coach Frank Vogel was heavily criticized for taking Hibbert out of Game 1 before James' game-winning layup. Vogel said he made the move because he was worried Bosh would get open for an easy jumper. The Heat spent 48 minutes showing Pacers fans why Vogel's Game 1 decision might not have been such a bad idea.

AP

Miami Heat's Udonis Haslem (40) celebrates with Chris Bosh (1) after Haslem made a shot and was fouled during the first half of Game 3 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals against the Indiana Pacers in Indianapolis, Sunday, May 26, 2013.

"That's what Miami does, they space you out," he said. "They make it difficult to have a rim protector in the game at all times. They challenge you to keep a guy at the rim and still make them close out to an 18-foot jump shooter. We have to account for that."

While Haslem and Bosh pulled Hibbert and power forward David West away from the basket, James took over as the Heat's post presence, overpowering and dominating All-Star forward Paul George.

"I made a conscious effort to get down in the post tonight, to put pressure on their defense," James said. "The coaching staff wanted me to be down there tonight, and my teammates allowed me to do that."

James, bouncing back after two late turnovers cost Miami in Game 2, had 22 points, four rebounds and three assists. Hours after Wade learned he would only be tagged with a flagrant foul from Game 2 and not a suspension, he finished with 18 points, eight assists and four rebounds. Bosh added 15 points and three rebounds, and all five Miami starters reached double figures.

Miami outscored Indiana 56-32 in the paint, but perhaps that much should be expected from a team with this much scoring punch—one that has won 23 of its last 24 games on the road.

The other stuff, not so much.

Miami committed a playoff franchise-low one turnover in the first half and finished with only five. James finished with none.

The Heat shot 54.5 percent against a Pacers team that finished the regular season with the NBA's best defensive field goal percentage and also made 24 of 28 free throws. They matched the highest scoring output in a quarter during this season's playoffs with 34, broke the franchise playoff record for points in a half (70) and fell one point short of tying the third-highest point total in a playoff game in franchise history.

But the biggest difference between the first two games and Sunday night's rout was James' work on the inside.

"It was something we wanted to get just to help settle us and get into a more aggressive attack," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said of the decision to post up the 6-foot-8 James. "We wanted to be a little more aggressive, a little more committed to getting into the paint and seeing what would happen. LeBron was very committed and focused not to settle."

Now it's the Pacers turn to adjust.

West led Indiana with 21 points and 10 rebounds, while Hibbert had 20 points and 17 boards. George finished with 13 points and eight assists, not nearly enough for the Pacers to remain perfect at home in the postseason.

Miami took advantage of a wild first quarter to build a 34-30 lead, then turned the game with James taking control in a 12-point second quarter. He scored half of the points in an 8-2 run that gave the Heat what was then their biggest lead of the series, 42-32.

A few minutes later, James did it again, making a 15-footer with 1.3 seconds left in the half to give Miami a 70-56 lead at the break—and the franchise record.

Indiana opened the second half looking more like the team that had given Miami fits in Games 1 and 2. The Pacers hit back-to-back 3-pointers and got a three-point play from George Hill. When Lance Stephenson followed that with 1 of 2 free throws, the lead had been cut to 74-67.

It didn't last.

Miami countered with a 9-4 run, extended the lead to 91-76 after three and made it 99-78 early in the fourth. Indiana never challenged again—the 18-point margin matching Indiana's worst home loss of the season—even though James scored only four second-half points.

"If you're not perfect guarding them, they'll do what they did to us tonight," Vogel said. "Sometimes when you are perfect with your coverages, they still find a way to make baskets. But we didn't have a great defensive night."

Venus Williams exits in 1st round of French Open

PARIS (AP)—With her back aching and the sun setting on Day 1 of the French Open, Venus Williams summoned the will to make one last bid at a comeback.

Stuck in what she later would call a "really big hole" in the third set against a much younger and less-successful opponent, the seven-time Grand Slam champion tried to put aside the weak serving and errant shots that created the mess in the first place.

In the end, it was too much to overcome.

Wincing after some points, resting with hands on knees after others, the 30th-seeded Williams lost 7-6 (5), 6-7 (4), 6-4 Sunday to 40th-ranked Urszula Radwanska of Poland. Williams last exited Roland Garros in the first round 12 years ago.

After the 3-hour, 19-minute match, filled with ebbs and flows, a reporter asked whether it crossed the 32-year-old Williams' mind that this might have been the final French Open of her career.

"If it's the last match, I'll let you know," she answered. "That's pretty much how it works."

Still adjusting to living with an energy-sapping autoimmune disease she revealed in August 2011, Williams now has two first-round losses in the past four Grand Slam tournaments. Her defeat at Wimbledon last June was the first time she'd left a major championship that early since she lost in the first round of the Australian Open 6 1/2 years earlier.

"With what I've gone through, it's not easy. But I'm strong and I'm a fighter. You know, I don't think I'm just playing for me now. I think I'm playing for a lot of people who haven't felt well," the American said. "I think for me today it's a positive to be able to play three hours."

Inflammation in her lower back limited Williams to two matches over the previous 1 1/2 months, preparation she called, with a chuckle, "extremely un-ideal."

"I can't really serve very hard. It's painful when I do that. But I'm getting better. I just, you know, ran out of time to get better for this tournament," said Williams, broken 11 of the 17 times she served Sunday. "My strategy was more or less to put the ball in, and that's very difficult for me, too, because that's not who I am. But that's all I had."

This result came a year after she lost in the second round at Roland Garros to Radwanska's older sister, Agnieszka, the 2012 Wimbledon runner-up.

Agnieszka is seeded fourth at the French Open and will play her first-round match Monday against Shahar Peer of Israel. Others in action on Day 2 include seven-time champion Rafael Nadal, and the past two winners of the women's title, Maria Sharapova and Li Na.

"Yeah, of course, I was talking with Aga about Venus," Urszula said. "I was well-prepared for this match, and I knew she was a great fighter, so I should be focused the whole match."

Williams, naturally, also knows a thing or two about having a more successful tennis-playing sibling, and her short stay in Paris comes 12 months after younger sister Serena, who owns 15 Grand Slam titles, was upset in the first round at Roland Garros.

Serena made a fluent return to the clay-court tournament in the early afternoon Sunday, overwhelming 74th-ranked Anna Tatishvili 6-0, 6-1—and then addressing an appreciative audience at Court Philippe Chatrier in the local language.

Magnifique!

"I have been speaking French for years and years, but I don't really have a lot of confidence," Serena said later, in English. "It's way, way more nerve-racking than playing tennis."

On this day, for her, absolutely.

She won the first nine games against Tatishvili, and 30 of the first 37 points. On her serve, the final count was 28 of 33 points, bolstered by eight aces.

"I've played a lot of players who have very good serves, but hers is consistently good, so you always feel pressure when you're returning," Tatishvili said. "I wasn't really surprised, because I've watched her so much, you know? It's Serena Williams; you watch her always on TV or at tournaments. But it's the first time I felt what I had seen."

Serena actually had hoped to show off her French skills last year, but never got the chance to deliver remarks after a victory. That's because she lost her opening match to Virginie Razzano—her only first-round defeat in 51 career Grand Slam tournaments.

Venus was one of two seeded players knocked out Sunday: No. 11 Nadia Petrova of Russia was beaten by Monica Puig of Puerto Rico 3-6, 7-5, 6-4. Otherwise, results went to form, with 17-time major champion Roger Federer picking up a 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 victory over a guy making his Grand Slam debut, Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain, while No. 4 David Ferrer, No. 14 Milos Raonic of Canada and No. 18 Sam Querrey of the United Sates also were among the winners.

Ana Ivanovic, the 2008 champion, and Sara Errani, the 2012 runner-up, advanced in straight sets in the women's draw.

Weekley gets first PGA win in 5 years at Colonial

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)— Boo Weekley enjoyed hearing his name yelled again and again while he was on the golf course.

What will mean even more is seeing it engraved on Colonial's famed Wall of Champions along with the likes of Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson.

Weekley got his first PGA Tour victory in five years Sunday, closing with a 4-under 66 that included three consecutive birdies midway through his round and a momentum-seizing 22-footer at the par-3 13th hole.

"It's unreal," he said. "Ever since I've been coming here and looking at that wall, and you see all of them names on the wall, and finally I get to have my name up there, it don't get no better than that."

Finishing at 14-under 266, Weekley won by a single stroke over Matt Kuchar, the second- and third-round leader who closed with a 68.

Defending champion Zach Johnson, who also won in 2010, shot a 66 to finish third at 12 under—his first top-10 finish this season. It was his fifth consecutive top-10 at Hogan's Alley, where he has played 19 of his last 20 rounds under par.

Weekley was at the 13th hole before he finally glanced at a leaderboard—and saw his name on top.

AP

Boo Weekley celebrates after being presented the champion blazer after winning the Colonial golf tournament Sunday, May 25, 2013, in Fort Worth, Texas.

When his birdie putt dropped to get him to 14 under, Weekley thrust his putter above his head and acknowledged the loud chorus of "Boo!" coming from the often rowdy crowd surrounding the picturesque hole on a back edge of the property. He then finished with five consecutive pars, even missing a pair of 4-foot putts before a 29-foot birdie try at No. 18 lipped out of the cup.

By moving to No. 55 in the world ranking, Weekley is now eligible for the U.S. Open.

Both of his previous wins had been at Harbour Town, in 2007 and 2008. Like the Heritage winner, the Colonial champion gets a plaid jacket, though the 2008 Ryder Cup team member wasn't able to compare any differences between them.

"I couldn't tell you, it's been so long," he said.

Weekley's check of just more than $1.1 million matched what he earned over his previous 14 tournaments this season while making 12 cuts and finishing in the top 10 three times. He never trailed after consecutive birdies at Nos. 8-10, those coming about the same time Scott Stallings—who had a front-side 6-under 29—made double bogey with three shots from bunkers at No. 15 to drop out of the lead.

The win for Weekley came the same week he went to see a doctor about the problem he has had recently maintaining focus in his left eye, sometimes causing bad twitches and making it problematic reading greens.

"I had a few out there. It was coming and going in that wind," Weekley said. "I don't know what's going to happen. We're going to get home and work on it."

Kuchar, at No. 13 the highest-ranked player in the field, was 12 under after a 55-foot birdie putt at the 436-yard 12th hole. Kuchar punched his right arm into the air to punctuate the shot that got him within a stroke of Weekley for the lead.

Johnson was at No. 17, where a 19-footer for his second consecutive birdie also got him to 12 under and led to his own fist pump.

Almost as quickly, their one-stroke deficit was back to two after Weekley's birdie at No. 13.

"I played well, that's all you can do and whoever wins, tip of the cap," said Johnson, who is the first player with five consecutive top-10 finishes at Colonial since Gene Littler did it six times from 1963-68.

Stallings' closing 66 put him in a tie for fourth at 11 under with John Rollins (68) and Matt Every (69).

The best round of the day was a 62 by Web.com Tour player Franklin Corpening, a Fort Worth native who grew up at Colonial and played at TCU. He finished at 8 under and tied for 14th, earning an automatic invitation to play again next year.

Kuchar made an 11-foot birdie putt off the back fringe at No. 2 before a bogey on the next hole, when he took two shots from a greenside bunker. Then came a steady stream of pars until rolling in that long putt at No. 12. He didn't have another birdie until a closing 20-footer put him alone in second place for his sixth career runner-up finish.

"It's a bummer for me. This is a tournament, and this is a golf course, that I love," said Kuchar, a five-time PGA Tour winner. "It's difficult at the moment coming just one shot short but you can't control what other guys do."

Angels beat Royals 5-2 to win 8th straight game

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)—Josh Hamilton started the Angels' comeback when he homered leading off the seventh inning, and Los Angeles beat the Kansas City Royals 5-2 Sunday for its eighth straight win.

The Angels were unable to get into their dugout until about 90 minutes before the game because bees swarmed into it. A beekeeper was summoned to solve the problem.

Jerome Williams (4-1) then allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings for the Angels, on their longest winning streak since taking eight straight from May 22-29 last year.

Red Sox 6, Indians 5

In Boston, Jacoby Ellsbury hit a game-ending, two-run double on Joe Smith's first pitch, capping a four-run, ninth-inning rally that lifted the Red Sox over the Indians.

Boston won three of four against Cleveland, managed by Terry Francona in his first series back at Fenway Park since leaving the Red Sox after the 2011 season.

Oakland 6, Houston 2

In Houston, Bartolo Colon struck out a season-high nine in seven scoreless innings, and the Athletics won their ninth straight against the Astros this season.

Oakland's Nate Freiman, who was with the Astros in spring training as a Rule 5 selection, had a double and home run with three RBIs for the A's.

Tigers 6, Twins 1

In Detroit, Max Scherzer pitched six solid innings to remain undefeated this season, and Avisail Garcia broke the game open with a bases-loaded triple, leading the Tigers over the Twins.

Scherzer, who retired his last 22 batters in a win at Cleveland on Tuesday, allowed a run and three hits Sunday in improving to 7-0. He struck out six and walked three.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 5

In Toronto, Munenori Kawasaki hit a game-ending two-run double in a four-run ninth inning, lifting the Blue Jays to a victory over the Orioles.

Trailing 5-2 to begin the ninth against Orioles closer Jim Johnson (2-5), the Blue Jays got a leadoff double from Edwin Encarnacion, a single from Adam Lind and an RBI single by J.P. Arencibia.

Rays 8, Yankees 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Alex Cobb took a three-hit shutout into the ninth inning and led the Rays to a win that extended CC Sabathia's winless streak to five, one short of his career high.

Cobb (6-2) lost his shutout bid when Brett Gardner homered leading off the ninth and he wound up allowing two runs and five hits in 8 1-3 innings with eight strikeouts.

Mariners 4, Rangers 3, 13 innings

In Seattle, Jason Bay hit a two-out RBI single in the 13th inning, lifting the Mariners to a victory over Texas that snapped an eight-game skid.

Bay came through after he was robbed of a game-winning homer in the 11, when David Murphy leaped above the fence in left-center field to catch Bay's drive.

White Sox 5, Marlins 3

In Chicago, Dayan Viciedo and Alex Rios each threw out a runner at the plate, and the White Sox beat Alex Sanabia and Marlins to sweep their weekend series.

The White Sox have won five of six and nine of 12 to climb back to .500 for the first time since they were 4-4 on April 10. Dylan Axelrod (3-3) benefited from a two-run homer by Adam Dunn and a tiebreaking two-run double from Alejandro De Aza to pick up his third consecutive victory.

Nationals 6, Phillies 1

In Washington, in a showdown of aces with disappointing records, Stephen Strasburg and Cole Hamels matched each other until the Washington Nationals scored five runs in the seventh inning of a win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Strasburg (3-5) allowed five hits in eight innings, walked none and struck out a season-high nine, giving up a run in the eighth on his first big league balk.

Cubs 5, Reds 4, 10 innings

In Cincinnati, Alfonso Soriano hit a tying two-run homer in the eighth inning and Welington Castillo had a go-ahead double in the 10th, helping the Cubs rally from a four-run deficit in a win over the Reds that stopped a season-high, six-game losing streak.

Soriano singled in the seventh and scored Chicago's first run off Johnny Cueto on Luis Valbuena's two-out single.

Kevin Gregg (1-0) pitched 1 1-3 hitless innings, stopping the Reds' five-game winning streak.

Mets 4, Braves 2

In New York, Ike Davis busted out of his prolonged slump with a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning and the Mets rallied past the Braves to end an eight-game losing streak at home.

Shaun Marcum struck out a career-high 12 and Lucas Duda homered for the Mets, who stopped Atlanta's eight-game winning streak and avoided a three-game sweep. The Braves had won 15 of 18 against New York and five in a row at Citi Field.

Pirates 5, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Wandy Rodriguez won his fourth consecutive start, Pedro Alvarez had a two-run double and the Pirates built an early four-run lead before holding off the Brewers.

The Pirates have won 13 of 15 and are a season high 12 games over .500.

Rodriguez (6-2) gave up three earned runs on seven hits in five innings to earn the victory. He struck out four and didn't walk a batter. Jason Grilli pitched a scoreless ninth for his major league-leading 20th save.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 5

In Phoenix, Patrick Corbin worked six innings without his best stuff to become the first Arizona left-hander to start with eight straight wins, Martin Prado matched a career high with four hits and the Diamondbacks beat the Padres.

Corbin allowed more than two runs for the first time this season, but helped himself with a run-scoring single in the fifth inning off Tommy Layne (0-1) to become the third Arizona pitcher to start a season 8-0.

Cardinals 5, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Matt Carpenter drove in the go-ahead run with an infield single and Pete Kozma hit a three-run double against Clayton Kershaw, leading the Cardinals to a victory over the Dodgers.

The Cardinals improved the major league's best record to 32-17 and increased their NL Central lead over Cincinnati to 1 1/2 games.

Giants 7, Rockies 3

In San Francisco, Brandon Belt hit a tiebreaking, two-run double in the fifth inning to back a shaky outing by Matt Cain, and the Giants rallied past the Rockies.

Buster Posey homered and Andres Torres added two hits and an RBI to help the Giants close a six-game homestand with consecutive wins. The defending World Series champions play 14 of their next 18 games on the road.

Kalayaan stuns Dollar Days; DFS wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Competition in the 4th Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League continues to get interesting heading into the homestretch of the regular season, as another favored team fell after Kalayaan, Inc. beat erstwhile leader Dollar Days, 117-98, last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

With Kalayaan winning and DFS Galleria downing another former pacesetter Shirley's in the second game, the Top 8 squads in the team standings are in a close race. Mobil and the Hoopaholics share the lead with their identical 5-2 records, Shirley's and DFS are also tied in second place with their similar 5-3 cards, Dollar Days (4-2) is at third, followed by Docomo (4-3), Kalayaan (3-4), and Kanoa Resort (2-4). Mariana Resort and Saipan Apparel are the bottom two squads, holding identical 1-6 records and could bow out of the playoff race if they drop their remaining two matches apiece.

Kalayaan boosted its playoff chances after outgunning Dollar Days in the payoff period, 40-26. Kalayaan was ahead by only 4 at the end of the third, 77-73, but walked away with the 19-point winning margin after a sizzling fourth quarter.

Lerio Pagarao and Rocyl Ritual teamed up in the final assault, scoring 12 and 11 points, respectively. Lerio converted two triples, while Ritual and Juan Camacho had one each with the latter chipping in 8 markers in the big fourth quarter push.

Dollar Days also nailed four triples in the final frame, however it was not enough against the hot-shooting Kalayaan crew. Ivan Devero and Kae Bernardo missed the game, limiting Dollar Days' offensive options.

Pagarao led all scorers with his 41 points, while Sonny Lerio and Ritual finished with 20 and 19, respectively. Juan Camacho contributed 17. Brandon Talania paced Dollar Days with his 24 points.

Meanwhile, in the second game, DFS limited a depleted Shirley's crew to 12 points in the third quarter to turn a 47-49 halftime deficit to a 75-61 advantage and take the 9-point win.

Shirley's, which played without Dennis Vinas and Erick Dela Rosa, was held to four field goals in the third canto, allowing DFS to grab momentum in the third. Dan Barcinas scored 7 points, while Elmer Esdrelon and Keone Chariton added 6 apiece to lift DFS to the 14-point lead, going into the fourth quarter.

DFS' Glenn Rabago fakes off the defense of Shirley's Arthur Montes during the third quarter of their game in the Shirley's caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

DFS then stretched the advantage to as much as 20 points before letting its guards down in the last three minutes of the match, giving Shirley's an opportunity to cut the deficit to a decent figure.

Barcinas top-scored for DFS with his 22 markers.

First Game

Kalayaan, Inc. 117 – Pagarao 41, Lerio 20, Ritual 19, Camacho 17, Caro 7, Rejano 2.

Dollar Days 98 – Talania 24, Demapan 17, Pantaleon 16, Joyner 15, Abuel 13, Devero 6, Laquian 4.

Scoring by quarters: 25-19, 55-43, 77-73, 117-98.

Second Game

DFS 99 – Barcinas 22, Guiab 17, Chariton 12, Lizama 11, Libuw 10, Esdrelon 10, Dikito 8, Rabago 4, Chavez 3.

Shirley's 90 – Peredo 29, Yap 16, Jugos 15, Usi 9, Metran 6, Montes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-22, 47-49, 75-61, 99-90.

TALAVERA

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Zapanta average 202.08, as he posted 200-plus pinfalls in seven games with the highest (239) made in Game 9. He had 200-plus pinfalls in the first three games (212, 205 and 216) and recorded 196, 185, 232, 220, 168, 210, 180, and 162 in the eight other games.

Castro also started in the 200s with his 209, but had a roller-coaster performance in the last 11 games (156, 239, 181, 191, 227, 199, 204, 227, 176, 175, and 208) to settle for third place with an average of 199.33 pinfalls.

Raphael Zapanta and Raymond Angeles rounded out the Top 5 after carding 2,342 and 2,303, respectively. The Top 5 finishers received cash prizes with Talavera getting the lion's share ($750) and a trophy.

In the women's division, Camacho went home with the $450 top purse and a trophy after logging 2,103 pinfalls and defending the title she won last year against Gloria Omechelang.

The back-to-back May Masters women's champion was the only kegler to score at least 2,000 pinfalls in 12 games. Camacho had her best showing in Game 6, nailing 211 pinfalls and closed out the tournament strong, adding 200 in Game 12 for an average of 175.25. Her other scores were 167, 189, 186, 150, 162, 176, 139, 165, 170, and 188.

Camacho's marks in the last two games proved to be the difference, as eventual runner-up Carol McKenzie was ahead after 10 games, 1,721-1,715, before the latter tallied only 138 and 130 pinfalls in Games 11 and 12 to drop to second. McKenzie ended up with 1,987 pinfalls, 116 short of Camacho's total.

Newcomer Kathy Mersai came in at third with her 1,967, while Ron Cal (1,938), Elena Soll (1,931), and Carrie Camacho (1,922) completed the Top 6 and received cash prizes, too.

Meanwhile, Saipan Bowling Association secretary Ross Zapanta noted that the women's field outnumbered the men's, 20-18, in this year's tournament so SBA managed to give more prizes to female players. Zapanta also thanked major sponsors Budweiser, Saipan Bowling Center (Jet Holdings), IT&E, and Pacific Islands Club for donating in-kind prizes.

Results of other events in last weekend's competition will be reported later this week.

U14 GIRLS

From Page 28

technical director and goalkeeper coach Johann Noetzel joined the 18-member squad in a send-off ceremony yesterday at the lobby of Kanoa Resort. The team is composed of Maile Aldrich, Chevy Kate Alipio, Kalea Hope, Carla Ballesteros, Guinevere Borja, Jezreelyn Bulaklak, Angelica Carreon, Renita Fleming, Bernadette Horey, Diana Maniacop, De Jana Muna, Angelica and Lyka Sally, Patricia Santiago, Pinyarat Shankweiler, Chloe Salvosa, Angelina Villagomez, and Krizel Tuazaon.

"We've been preparing for this tournament for about a year now, so our team is definitely ready. Their skill level has improved and they've been playing together for so long that chemistry will be their biggest weapon in Beijing," Tang added.

Ito agreed, saying members of the team know each other's moves and tendencies and treat each other like sisters, willing to help every player on the squad.

"We hope that chemistry and camaraderie translate to good plays once they are at the pitch," Ito said.

She added that majority of the players competing in Beijing had experienced what was it like to compete off-island so that is another plus for the squad. Several players on the team played in the AFC U13 Girls Football Tournament in Nanjing, China, in June last year. They challenged Japan, North and South Korea, Chinese-Taipei, and China and though the CNMI bets failed to score a single win and dropped all their matches, they learned a lot from last year's AFC debut.

The core of last year's team then resumed practicing for the regional championships, training three times a week for months before making it a six days a week session (Monday to Saturday, from 4pm to 6pm), beginning last month.

"I would like to commend our players for showing commitment in training and improving their skills, as they continue to train after competing in Nanjing. This kind of attitude is what we need to build a strong and competitive national team in the future. I would also like to thank their parents for supporting these kids," said NMIFA president Jerry Tan.

Tan attended the send-off ceremony with NMIFA vice president Vicky Izuka, some club officials, parents, and Maggie Sablan and Merlie Tolentino of Tan Siu Lin Foundation, which donated jackets for the team.

"We wish our team good luck. Play your best game, enjoy, and learn," Tan added.

The CNMI youth strikers will leave for Beijing this Sunday and will play their first game against China on June 4. Next up for the Commonwealth bets will be Guam (June 5), while their last assignment in Group A of the east division of the regionals will be South Korea (June 6). Group B has only three teams—Japan, Chinese-Taipei, and North Korea—and only the Top 2 squads in each group will advance to the crossover semifinals.

FLIP

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third defeat in the last four games.

Justin Zapanta had 23 on the losing end.

Mawati 76, Sexy Boys 72 OT

Mawati ended its Bracket B campaign on a two-game winning streak after outlasting Sexy Boys in overtime.

Mawati completed the regular season with a 3-3 record to remain in contention for the last automatic quarterfinals ticket. Mawati is in a tie for third with the Sexy Boys behind Freeststyle (4-2) and King's (3-2). Camor (2-3) and GHD (2-2) complete the group.

Webb Guntar scored 23 points in the OT win, including 4 markers in overtime and a split free throw that forced the standoff in regulation.

The Sexy Boys fell short in the extra five minutes of the match, as only Chris Esteves and Eugene Manglona scored in the extension, while Guntar drew some help from Julian Pena, Aries Enriquez, and Ian Larot.

Fist Game

Mawati 76 – Guntar 23, Reyes 16, Larot 15, Enriquez 10, Santos 4, Tenepere 2, Pena 2.

Sexy Boys 72 – Manglona 29, Francisco 20, Tinio 8, Esteves 6, Wood 5, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-11, 31-32, 53-46, 67-67, 76-72.

Second Game

Flip Top 77 – Feria 30, De Leon 12, Fleming 11, Namelo 10, Cabaltica 6, Toribio 2, Isip 2.

Chinatown 68 – Zapanta 23, Ajoste 11, Lapuz 10, Quizon 10, Mancao 9, Pua 7.

Scoring by quarters: 23-11, 42-37, 63-56, 77-68.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	30	19	.612	_
Boston	31	20	.608	_
Baltimore	27	23	.540	3 1/2
Tampa Bay	25	24	.510	5
Toronto	21	29	.420	9 1/2
Central Division				
Detroit	28	20	.583	_
Cleveland	27	22	.551	1 1/2
Chicago	24	24	.500	4
Kansas City	21	26	.447	6 1/2
Minnesota	19	28	.404	8 1/2
West Division				
Texas	32	18	.640	_
Oakland	28	23	.549	4 1/2
Los Angeles	23	27	.460	9
Seattle	21	29	.420	11
Houston	14	36	.280	18

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	30	19	.612	_
Washington	26	24	.520	4 1/2
Philadelphia	24	26	.480	6 1/2
New York	18	29	.383	11
Miami	13	37	.260	17 1/2
Central Division				
St. Louis	32	17	.653	_
Cincinnati	31	19	.620	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	31	19	.620	1 1/2
Milwaukee	19	29	.396	12 1/2
Chicago	19	30	.388	13
West Division				
Arizona	28	22	.560	_
San Francisco	28	22	.560	_
Colorado	27	23	.540	1
San Diego	22	27	.449	5 1/2
Los Angeles	20	28	.417	7

CROWNE PLAZA INVITATIONAL AT COLONIAL SCORES

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)–Scores Friday in the Crowne Plaza Invitational, a PGA Tour event played at the 7,204-yard, par-70 course of Colonial Country Club.

FINAL ROUND

Boo Weekley (500), $1,152,000	67-67-66-66–266
Matt Kuchar (300), $691,200	65-65-69-68–267
Zach Johnson (190), $435,200	69-65-68-66–268
Scott Stallings (115), $264,533	69-65-69-66–269
Matt Every (115), $264,533	65-69-66-69–269
John Rollins (115), $264,533	63-71-67-68–269
Tim Clark (83), $192,800	67-69-65-69–270
Jordan Spieth, $192,800	65-67-71-67–270
Chris Stroud (83), $192,800	67-66-67-70–270
Josh Teater (83), $192,800	65-67-71-67–270
Jonas Blixt (65), $147,200	67-68-67-69–271
John Huh (65), $147,200	66-68-72-65–271
Chez Reavie (65), $147,200	70-64-70-67–271
Bud Cauley (56), $112,000	67-69-66-70–272
Franklin Corpening, $112,000	68-70-72-62–272
Martin Flores (56), $112,000	66-70-65-71–272
Ryan Palmer (56), $112,000	62-72-71-67–272
Charley Hoffman (52), $86,400	66-70-67-70–273
Jason Kokrak (52), $86,400	66-71-68-68–273
David Lingmerth (52), $86,400	72-64-72-65–273
Ted Potter, Jr. (52), $86,400	70-66-68-69–273
Brendon de Jonge (48), $64,000	66-70-68-70–274
Graham DeLaet (48), $64,000	64-67-69-74–274
Steve Flesch (48), $64,000	68-64-69-73–274
Brian Stuard (48), $64,000	67-70-69-68–274
Hunter Mahan (43), $47,360	69-68-68-70–275
John Merrick (43), $47,360	68-70-71-66–275
John Peterson, $47,360	64-71-71-69–275
Scott Piercy (43), $47,360	69-69-70-67–275
Camilo Villegas (43), $47,360	70-68-69-68–275
Angel Cabrera (39), $38,800	70-67-70-69–276
Ken Duke (39), $38,800	66-68-73-69–276
Jim Furyk (39), $38,800	69-66-70-71–276
Bo Van Pelt (39), $38,800	70-68-67-71–276
Brandt Jobe (33), $30,217	68-68-75-66–277
Henrik Stenson (33), $30,217	68-70-72-67–277
Freddie Jacobson (33), $30,217	66-67-69-75–277
Chris Kirk (33), $30,217	67-66-70-74–277
Richard H. Lee (33), $30,217	70-68-69-70–277
Carl Pettersson (33), $30,217	66-69-73-69–277
Daniel Summerhays (33), $30,217	65-73-67-72–277
Brian Davis (28), $23,040	67-68-70-73–278
Bob Estes (28), $23,040	67-68-71-72–278
J.J. Henry (28), $23,040	68-68-67-75–278
Shawn Stefani (28), $23,040	69-70-68-71–278
Stuart Appleby (22), $16,864	69-68-75-67–279
Roberto Castro (22), $16,864	67-68-73-71–279
Jason Dufner (22), $16,864	67-71-71-70–279
Derek Ernst (22), $16,864	66-69-73-71–279
David Frost (22), $16,864	69-70-71-69–279
Marc Leishman (22), $16,864	66-68-72-73–279
Patrick Reed (22), $16,864	70-69-67-73–279
Michael Thompson (22), $16,864	67-72-69-71–279
Kevin Chappell (14), $14,400	69-70-69-72–280
Rickie Fowler (14), $14,400	69-69-70-72–280
Tommy Gainey (14), $14,400	65-72-67-76–280
Martin Laird (14), $14,400	70-69-72-69–280
Dicky Pride (14), $14,400	69-70-70-71–280
Kyle Reifers, $14,400	68-69-69-74–280
D.J. Trahan (14), $14,400	67-70-73-70–280
Cameron Tringale (14), $14,400	70-69-72-69–280
Justin Hicks (8), $13,696	71-64-75-71–281
Ben Kohles (8), $13,696	67-67-71-76–281
Seung-Yul Noh (8), $13,696	69-69-69-74–281
Greg Chalmers (5), $13,248	67-72-70-73–282
Luke Guthrie (5), $13,248	71-68-69-74–282
Tim Herron (5), $13,248	71-67-72-72–282
Bryce Molder (5), $13,248	67-70-69-76–282
Morgan Hoffmann (2), $12,928	64-73-73-73–283
Ryo Ishikawa (1), $12,672	69-69-74-72–284
Robert Karlsson (1), $12,672	69-68-73-74–284
Vaughn Taylor (1), $12,672	71-68-71-74–284
Erik Compton (1), $12,288	68-71-72-74–285
Henrik Norlander (1), $12,288	69-70-75-71–285
Charlie Wi (1), $12,288	69-66-73-77–285
Sang-Moon Bae (1), $11,968	69-70-70-77–286
Bobby Gates (1), $11,968	69-70-70-77–286

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IT&E Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hong Kong's Yuen Tung Liu stretches for a return during her singles game against Palau's Ayana Rengiil in the IT&E Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships held last week at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

The CNMI's Tammy Ackerman waits for the serve of Japan's Izumi Asano.

Hong Kong's Anthony Jackie Tang chases the ball at the backcourt.

Japan's Izumi Asano, left, and Miyu Hashimoto celebrate after scoring a point against the CNMI's Thea Minor and Australia's Hene Demiri.

The CNMI's Rafael Jones goes for a shot near the net during his and Jerome Romualdez's match versus Australia's Stefan Vujic and Jesse Delaney.

Australia's Stefan Vujic, right, returns to the Philippines' Jerome Romualdez and the CNMI's Rafael Jones.

Australia's Stefan Vujic, left, watches teammate Jesse Delaney receive a serve at the backline.

The Philippines' Jerome Romualdez, left, and the CNMI's Rafael Jones get ready for the service from their foes.

The CNMI's Thea Minor makes a return, while teammate Hene Demiri of Australia looks on during their doubles game against Japan's Izumi Asano and Miyu Hashimoto.

Spain's Francisco Adolfo Blanco Paris hits a low ball.

Weekley gets first PGA win in 5 years at Colonial

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Heat break out in Game 3 for 2-1 lead over Pacers

PAGE 24

Talavera ends drought; Camacho repeats

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Robert Talavera snapped a three-season skid, while Diana Camacho had a successful title defense, as the two veteran bowlers ruled the 31st CNMI-SBC May Masters Tournament held over the weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Talavera, who last topped the May Masters event in 2009 and fell short last year after losing by only one pinfall against eventual winner Percy Omechelang, won this year's competition after collecting 2,565 pinfalls. He knocked down 200-plus pinfalls in nine of the 12 games for a 140-pinfall win over 2011 champion Raymond Zapanta (2,425) and 173 pinfalls ahead 2010 winner Alex Castro (2,392). Omechelang was a distant 13th place with his 2,128 pinfalls.

After a168-pinfall performance in Game 1, Talavera rolled 200s in the next five games (204, 223, 215, 215, and 217), had another streak of 200-plus pinfalls (225, 213, 257, and 237 in Games 8 to 11), and logged 192 and 199 in Games 7 and 12 for an average of 213.75. Out of the 18 players who qualified for the May Masters event, only Talavera and Zapanta averaged at least seven 200-pinfall games.

See **TALAVERA** on **Page 26**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Robert Talavera, left, and Diana Camacho pose with their trophies and other prizes during the awards ceremony for the 31st CNMI-SBC May Masters Tournament last Sunday at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

U14 Girls Team to keep stride in AFC event

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U14 Girls National Team hopes to pick up where its boys counterpart left off in Beijing when it competes in the AFC U14 Girls Regional Championships at the China National Football Training Centre next week.

"That win against Guam (in AFC U14 Championship 2014 Qualifiers) is morale-boosting and inspires our girls to work harder with the goal of duplicating that feat and proving to our competitors that as the newest member in AFC we continue to show significant improvements," head coach Jimmy Tang said.

Tang, team manager Angie Ito, physiotherapist Pam Carhill, and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

See **U14 GIRLS** on **Page 26**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and officials of the CNMI U14 Girls National Team pose for a group photo during a send-off ceremony yesterday at the Kanoa Resort. The squad is competing in the AFC U14 Girls Regional Championships in Beijing, China next week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Flip Top's Emerson Feria goes for an open layup after beating a line of Chinatown defenders during their game in the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Flip Top gets outright q'finals seat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Flip Top secured an automatic quarterfinals berth in the 2013 DLX Invitational Basketball League after defeating Chinatown, 77-68, last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Flip Top finished the regular season with a 4-2 record for second place in Bracket A behind the unbeaten Adobo (6-0). Only the Top 2 teams in the group will gain outright entry to the quarterfinals, while the last four—San Roque (3-2), Lyn's Heat (3-3), Chinatown (2-4), and Wanted Sponsor (0-5)—will have to fight for the last two quarterfinals berth in the first round of the playoffs. San Roque and Wanted Sponsor will play in the last match in Bracket A and even if the former wins, Flip Top gets to keep the No. 2 spot due to the winner over the other rule. Flip Tip beat San Roque last month, 96-84.

Feria led Flip Top's victory, scoring 30 points, including important baskets in the second half to foil Chinatown's repeated comeback bids. Kevin De Leon added 12, drilling 7 of them early in the game, as Flip Top opened a 23-11 advantage in the first period.

Flip Top kept the lead, as it also got contributions from Toby Fleming and Wenz Namelo to hand Chinatown its

See **FLIP** on **Page 26**